Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-96-115 *13 January 1996*

CONTENTS

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Cuba: Castro Cautions Against Human Rights Champion *[Havana TV]* 1
Cuba: PRC Minister Visits Plantation, Other Installations *[Havana TV]* 2
Cuba: DPRK Official Condemns Helms-Burton Law *[Havana TV]* 2
Cuba: DPRK Official Meets With Trade, Foreign Ministers *[Havana TV]* 2
Cuba: Prieto Denies Hardening of Internal Policy *[PROCESO 27 May]* 2
Cuba: Generator Breakdowns Result in Power Outages *[Havana TV]* 6

Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic: New Chief of Police Appointed *[NOTIMEX]* 6

Haiti

Haiti: Minister Reacts to U.S. Congress Decision on Aid *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Haiti: Venezuelan Ambassador Notes Improving Cooperation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Haiti: Taiwanese Delegation Visits Senate on 11 Jun *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Haiti: Nominations for Posts of General Director Announced *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Haiti: Resolution Dissolving Armed Forces Approved *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8

MEXICO

Mexico: Zedillo Says Government Strong, Downplays Rumors *[NOTIMEX]* 9
Mexico: Zedillo Addresses Canadian Chamber of Commons *[Mexico City TV]* 9
Mexico: Cooperation Agreements Signed With Canada *[NOTIMEX]* 10

CENTRAL AMERICA

Nicaragua

Nicaragua: President Downplays 'Coup Rumors' *[Managua Radio]* 11

Panama

Panama: President Rejects Drug Trafficking Allegations *[Panama City TV]* 11
Panama: President Refutes Reports, Denies U.S. 'Pressure' *[Panama City TV]* 11
Panama: Opposition Willing To Open Campaign Records *[Panama City TV]* 12
Panama: U.S. Said Not Providing Environmental Reports *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 12 Jun]* 13
Panama: Official Says U.S. Must Return Bases in Good Shape *[EL UNIVERSAL DE PANAMA 12 Jun]* 13

SOUTH AMERICA

Bolivia

Bolivia: News Summary for 10 Jun *[Social Communications Ministry WWW]* 14
Bolivia: News Summary for 11 Jun *[Social Communications Ministry WWW]* 14

Brazil

Brazil: Land Invasions on Rise Near Developed Cities *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 5 Jun]* 15

Brazil: Small-Scale Electoral Reform Forecast *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 3 Jun]* 16

Chile

Chile: Correction to U.S. Urged To Change Attitude *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 7 Jun]* 17

Colombia

Colombia: Samper's Defense Attorney Interviewed *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 18
Colombia: Senate Head Says U.S. Attitude 'Unacceptable' *[Madrid EFE]* 19
Colombia: Representatives Reject Annulment Motions *[Madrid EFE]* 19
Colombia: Chamber of Representatives Exonerates Samper *[Madrid EFE]* 20
Colombia: Samper Issues Communique on Chamber Vote *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 20
Colombia: Chamber President on 'Honest Decision' *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 20
Colombia: Samper To Address Nation on 13 Jun *[Madrid EFE]* 21
Colombia: OAS Secretary General's Brother Released *[Madrid EFE]* 21
Colombia: Gaviria Family Thanks Authorities, F. Castro *[Madrid EFE]* 21
Colombia: Kidnapping Said Used To Avoid Extradition *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 21
Colombia: News Conference Held on Gaviria's Release *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 22
Colombia: Samper Remarks on Release of Gaviria's Brother *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 23
Colombia: Gaviria's Release Said To Result From Talks *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 23
Colombia: Police Director Describes Gaviria's Release *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 24
Colombia: Police Arrest Alleged Leader of Coast Cartel *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 28

Ecuador

Ecuador: UN Official on Unauthorized Comments on Conflict *[Quito Radio]* 29

Paraguay

Paraguay: Wasmosy Justifies Replacing Oviedo *[Madrid EFE]* 29

Peru

Peru: Salvadoran President Arrives for Official Visit *[Madrid EFE]* 30

Cuba

Cuba: Castro Cautions Against Human Rights Champion

PA1206161796 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0037 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Speech by President Fidel Castro from an award ceremony for an honorary degree from Mexico's Autonomous University of Puebla at the Council of State in Havana on 10 June — recorded]

[FBIS Summary] Immediately upon receiving an honorary degree from Jose Doger, Autonomous University of Puebla Rector, President Fidel Castro addresses the Mexicans and other guests at the ceremony. He praises "the brilliant" speech delivered by the rector "about what a Latin American university should be nowadays."

Castro asks how can Latin Americans avoid losing everything. He answers: "I have been thinking about the role the universities can play in this one-sided and formidable struggle and I realized, with satisfaction, that there are good universities, like the one in Puebla, which consciously and actively participates in this struggle."

Castro then praises the role the Autonomous University of Puebla has played in the history of Mexico.

The Cuban president explains that "currently, one of the main management tools arises from the monopoly of technology, in addition to the monopoly of the political, economic, and military power that our common neighbor has." Castro adds: "I did not want to discuss politics in this academic ceremony, but I had no choice but to recall this."

Castro then reminisces about how the Mexican people were "plundered of more than half of their territory after an unfair and cruel war whose outcome was, practically speaking, xenophobia and hatred for whatever is Latin American, Indian, or black."

Castro explains that a video on how a person trying to emigrate to the United States was brutally treated has been repeatedly shown in Cuba because "it teaches and educates the people, it teaches how those who claim to be the champions of human rights behave."

President Castro explains that Cuba's response to the luring from "paradise" has been to work for the formation of the new man, "of whom Che spoke;" of the integral man mentioned by the rector. He admits: "To work for something does not mean one will be absolutely successful. Nothing is absolutely successful, but much progress has been made with man's heart, soul, and spirit, in the form of generosity, solidarity, and brotherhood."

Castro reports that in the beginning many Cubans who were criminals left for the United States, where they were welcomed, and later other Cubans went to that country for economic reasons — the same way Mexicans do.

The Cuban president notes how the world population has grown since the beginning of this century, how in Latin America soon 80 percent of the population will live in the cities. He criticizes the "self-proclaimed champion of human rights" for its opposition to making housing an essential human right as proposed by Istanbul; to strong environmental-protection measures as proposed in Rio de Janeiro; and to social rights, as explained in Denmark.

Castro then notes the importance of universities and reproaches the powerful: "They monopolize technology, computer science, electronics, airlines, modern equipment, air transportation, ships, trains. All this is in the hands of the enterprises of the powerful ones, who monopolize everything."

He wonders what chances will future Latin American generations have, and asks: "What peaceful means are there to resist other than the development of our people's intelligence, of knowledge, of an integral, scientific and at the same time humanistic education?"

Castro notes: "We will have to trust also in the conscience and heart of our neighbor, because it is not the North American people, but a minority, who have been making the decisions."

President Castro notes how the United States wants to reduce the budget for education, health, and social welfare. He explains that "blind laws, not rationality, rule that economy, and millions of persons are beginning to pay the price of contradictions, of unemployment." "If that is the way it is there," he wonders, "imagine how it is down here. The universities will have to find solutions to social problems." He notes that ways must be found to place science and technology at the service of mankind.

Fidel Castro reports that the Autonomous University of Puebla serves the state of Puebla, Mexico, and Latin America and notes that it is in this context that he values the degree bestowed on him by the university.

"We will win," he concludes.

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Cuba: PRC Minister Visits Plantation, Other Installations

PA1106165596 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jun 96

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PRC delegation headed by Foreign Minister Wu Yi visited the Jaguey Grande citrus fruit plantation today and will visit the Genetics and Biotechnology Institute tomorrow. She will also participate in the inauguration Chinatex [Textile Import and Export Corporation] offices in Cuba.

Wu Yi heads her country's delegation, which since Saturday has been participating in the 8th session of the Joint PRC-Cuba Inter-Governmental Commission. The meeting discusses the possibility of increasing trade and cooperation between the two countries in the areas of hydrology, geology, mining, fishing, agriculture, and basic and light industries, among others.

Members of the media attending the meeting have reported that the PRC is interested in increasing investments in Cuba.

Cuba: DPRK Official Condemns Helms-Burton Law

PA1206204596 Havana Cubavision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jun 96

[Report by Nestor Pardino; from the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The DPRK is demanding the revocation of the Helms-Burton law. According to Yang Hyong-sop, president of the DPRK's Supreme People's Assembly, the extraterritorial legislation violates international law and the people's sovereignty. It is evidence of the United States' supremacist ambitions.

Today, during a meeting with his Cuban counterpart Ricardo Alarcon, Yang Hyong-sop stated that the OAS resolution requesting that an inter-American juridical commission examine Washington's legislative project is excellent.

The head of the DPRK 's parliament is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Yang Hyong-sop's tour of Latin America includes visits to Mexico, Brazil, Peru, and Colombia.

Cuba: DPRK Official Meets With Trade, Foreign Ministers

PA1206204896 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jun 96

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yan Hyong-sop, president of the DPRK's Supreme People's Assembly, continues his official visit to Cuba. Today, he met with Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. Cabrisas and Yan Hyong-sop expressed their hopes for the normalization and development of bilateral trade relations in the near future. Economic ties between Havana and Pyongyang were damaged as a result of the disappearance of the socialist bloc and the grave natural disasters experienced by the DPRK.

Later on, at the Foreign Ministry headquarters, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, stressed the DPRK's support for Cuba in the international arena. The president of the Supreme People's Assembly expressed the DPRK's gratitude for the humanitarian aid provided by Cuba after last year's floods.

Cuba: Prieto Denies Hardening of Internal Policy

PA1206174196 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 27 May 96 pp 44, 45, 47

[Report on interview with Abel Prieto, president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, by Homero Campa in Havana, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana — "The Cuban Revolution is facing a dual challenge: On the international front, being David to Goliath, and on the domestic front, being Gulliver, a giant that, as in the tale, must get up despite being tied down by dwarfs, namely, prostitution, middlemen, corrupt businessman, or the guy who sells his soul to the devil for a few dollars."

A lover of literature, being a writer and an author of short stories, Abel Prieto uses these images to summarize his country's current situation and adds: "The debate of our ideas must be completely open, out in the open. With an ostrich policy, going into a cave with Lenin's photograph, is not how we are going to solve our problems." Something, he adds, that "would be a folly, suicide."

Commenting on the attempts at "ideological infiltration" or to cause "an internal division, promoted by the United States," he proposes "going into the offensive," that is "to seek our true interlocutors in U.S. society and the world out there ... to be dangerous as an ideological option,"

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Abel Prieto is the president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC). He is also one of the 25 members of the Cuban regime's highest power forum: The Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. He is considered, at 45 years of age, one of the youngest men near Fidel Castro.

Interviewed by PROCESO, Prieto — wearing eyeglasses, shoulder-length hair, knit pants and a shirt — defends the Politburo report read by General Raul Castro last March, which prompted fears and doubts that internal policy would be hardened and the headway made with regard to tolerance and criticism would be wiped out.

"One has to read the document more carefully. It is an appeal to unity not unanimity; it makes a call for reflection and coherence based on the pluralistic nature of the debate within the Revolution," he maintains.

He adds emphatically: "In the field of Cuban political culture, there will be no change. If someone is concerned about that, he may rest at ease."

So as to dispel doubts he notes: "There will be no political realism; the 1960's are not coming back; there will be no persecution or witch hunt."

In a reflective, at times facetious, tone Prieto broaches different topics that lie at the heart of the current debate in Cuba: The challenge of implementing an open and pluralistic cultural policy in a country under siege by the world's largest power, the upsurge of civilian organizations "independent" of the Cuban state, the impossibility of social democracy becoming the "third way," the "blackmail" of incorporating Cuba into the world in exchange for internal concessions, and the use of circumstantial "pretexts" to provoke an open confrontation between the United States and the government of Fidel Castro.

"If the dispute between the United States and Cuba is getting worse, it is not because of the downing of the light airplanes, the Cuban Council [Concilio Cubano] (an internal dissident forum), or the PCC report, but because the neo-fascist wave in the United States is growing and wants to turn Cuba into a scapegoat," he maintains.

"Revolutionary Purity"

On 23 March, General Raul Castro, Fidel's younger brother, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and second secretary of the PCC, read a report before the fifth plenum of the Central Committee.

In a harsh tone, he stated: "The enemy does not hide its purpose of utilizing some of the so-called nongovernmental organizations [NGO] that have recently emerged in Cuba to promote, with this Trojan horse, division and subversion, and the theoretical framework employed is to depict them as part of civilian society."

What is more: "In the universities, film, radio, television, and general circles of culture there exist two kinds of conduct: One linked to loyalty to our revolutionary people, and the minuscule one, with annexationist leanings, very alien to the patriotic conduct that marks most of our intellectuals.

"The lesson must serve to keep out of our news media the creators of or interlocutors for ideas and concepts alien to those the revolution advocates and defends."

After describing some academic centers and publications as "fifth columns," he advocated the establishment of a "cardinal principle" in the midst of a complex outlook: "Maintaining revolutionary purity."

The effects of the report were immediate: Artists and intellectuals voiced their concern the country may be regressing to the "gray five-year period," namely, intolerance of criticism and of free creation, something that had been overcome since the 1980's.

Abroad, the document was used as an argument to assail the "rigidity" of the government of Fidel Castro. The European Union, for instance, used this as a reason not to advance in the negotiations toward a cooperation agreement (Process 1020).

A month after the report, Abel Prieto denied it entailed a hardening of any kind or that "its overall spirit belied the policies we have been implementing until now."

"The purpose of that document," he said during a 10 May news conference, "is not to create new censorships. It is to make a call for reflection, steadfastness, unity, and intelligence."

What is more, he said that the said document "rejects formal unanimity and promotes cohesion and unity based on the pluralistic nature of the debate."

Citing Cuban poet and intellectual Cintio Vitier, the UNEAC president said: "Under our current difficult and changing circumstances we face the big challenge of 'building a congress in a trench.'"

That means, he said, that "we need the widest and most pluralistic cultural policy imaginable amid the tensions of a war with the world's most powerful nation. That is a pretty unequal struggle, but our challenge is to work for that congress in that trench and to express the heterogeneity of Cuban culture through institutions."

During an interview with PROCESO, the UNEAC president noted that the said document was necessary

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because the PCC — conceived as society's guide — must "make a pronouncement at a changing and contradictory time and call on the revolutionary forces to face the problems."

He lists three fundamental reasons for issuing the document:

"1) The ethical reason: Economic transformations have weakened the morals and conduct in several social sectors. Corruption, prostitution, posturing [simulacion], the rise of middlemen [intermediarismo], and all those phenomena can entail antisocial forces or the reinstatement of capitalism.

"2) The ideological reason: Pushed by the shortage of goods, the crisis of values can lead us to dangerous ideological concessions.

"3) The sense of discipline, fundamentally among officials, since we noticed an anarchic trend where some study centers and officials close to the PCC were designing policies on their own. A country as besieged as ours must have coherence in its foreign policy, and yet they were acting on their own."

Revolution and Civilian Society

Cuba's economic reforms have already prompted a "revamping of civilian society." Immersed in the logic of the market and with the state monopoly on employment gone, groups are now emerging that seek maneuvering room outside the traditional mass organizations, namely, the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), the Union of Young Communists (UJC), the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), the unions of the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC), the Federation of University Students (FEU), the Federation of Secondary School Students (FEEM), and the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP).

Prieto comments that this phenomenon is not something intentionally proposed and that — unlike Moses' tablets — "the new forms of organizing civilian society have not come down from heaven."

He warns, however: "What we must do is make these organizations emerge from within, based on the profound needs of Cuban society and not manipulated by one embassy or U.S. special services." In addition, he adds, "they need to find an essentially democratic mechanism through which they can get organized and express themselves."

And he affirms: "If these organizations emerge naturally from the social masses and if they are suddenly seeking a new maneuvering room outside the state, they will find it, and we have the obligation of providing it to them. They will in no way be considered counterrevolutionary because of that."

[Campa] Will the traditional mass organizations be superseded?

[Prieto] No. Groups that do not belong to these organizations have been emerging for a long time. This is the case with cultural foundations or professional associations.

He notes, however, that "the situation the country is experiencing does not permit liberalizing in an indiscriminate manner the emergence of groups of the so-called civilian society" and affirms that the institutions of the Revolution must "redouble efforts to make others feel there is room for everybody in them." He cites an example: "If a young artist or innovator has doubts, anxieties, and professional uncertainties that the UNEAC or the Saiz Brothers Association cannot handle or solve, that young man will seek another place, and the enemy can have an influence here."

What we cannot allow, he warns afterward, "are forms of organization of a counterrevolutionary nature." "The harassment is relentless, and that kind of organization will receive all the support from our enemy, the world's strongest enemy. That would amount to legalizing the empire's meddling in our internal affairs."

[Campa] The criteria to differentiate between what is *independent and what is counterrevolutionary* is very subjective. When is an NGO "an instrument of the enemy" and when is it not?

[Prieto] It is clear when one criticizes in good faith and pledges to act for the country without seeking notoriety abroad. I do not see, however, honest purposes in the minuscule counterrevolutionary groups, which are always suspected of opportunism.

[Campa] Why not give them the benefit of the doubt?

[Prieto] What we must not do, I think, in our organization is to confuse the young man who has good, innovative, critical, and even unorthodox ideas with the person who moves toward annexationist stances.

Cuban authorities point to Washington's dual strategy to destroy the Revolution: Track one consists of the blockade and economic asphyxiation, and as a complement there is track two consisting of subtle infiltration to divide and subvert from within through purported cultural and academic exchanges and by transferring resources to some NGO's.

[Campa] It is obvious that the Cuban strategy to deal with the track one strategy is very clear, that is,

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resistance. Is there, however, a defined strategy for track two that does not entail a political hardening?

[Prieto] I think it is being defined. It is a real unprecedented challenge. There were always infiltration attempts but not as articulated as now. I think the only response is the offensive.

"We cannot react by closing our doors and windows. That would be childish, asphyxiating, and technologically impossible. Limiting trips abroad or preventing academic or cultural exchange would be suicide, folly.

"The response would be the opposite, that is, to seek in U.S. society and the world outside our true interlocutors so we can begin to establish relations based on respect for our process. We even have that obligation."

As a specific example of that offensive, he mentions Fidel Castro's visit to New York for the UN anniversary. "The mayor does not invite him to a single dinner or concert to which the other leaders were invited. They try to humiliate Fidel, isolate him, and depict him as a leper. Yet Fidel met with Harlem's clergy and poor, the news media, businessmen.... Cuban institutions have to do that, go on the offensive and be dangerous as an ideological option."

Social Democracy in Cuba "A Joke"

Prieto maintains that Cuba finds itself at a crossroads, where possible options are extreme and polarized, revolution or counterrevolution, independence or annexation.

[Campa] This is a Manichaean view. Is there no middle-ground solution?

[Prieto] There is none. A social democratic option, for instance, would be a joke in Cuba. The social democratic options that emerged in the South, particularly in Latin America, were wiped out by neo-liberalism. Their original programs — they advocated a state that provided social security — did not work. They were also based on the accumulation of capital that entailed the exploitation of the South by the North. One would have to think if it is possible to implement this social democratic economic regime in Cuba.

For the Cuban leader, however, it is possible to begin a debate in one of the extremes of the polarized topic of Cuba, that is, the one of the revolution.

"Here we have many shades and among the people who march on 1 May there is the one who endorses all the Revolution's policies and the one who only partially endorses them. The person who votes for the Revolution at election time may also have many doubts and discrepancies.

"What we should not do is impoverish the public debate by handing out tickets [preceding word published in English] of 'you are an annexationist and you a revolutionary,' because then, political discussion would freeze."

He does point out, however, that "we must leave only the annexationists at the other pole. We should not push people there because of a lack of flexibility, opportunities for true discussion, or due to a lack of summoning power of our organizations."

[Campa] The downing of the light airplanes of the Brothers to the Rescue anti-Castro organization, the decision not to legalize the Cuban Council, and the Politburo's report. These were the arguments used by the United States to approve the Helms-Burton law, so that Europe would not continue toward a cooperation agreement, and for the Rio Group not to invite Cuba to its meeting in Cochabamba. Did you take into account the consequence of these actions?

[Prieto] Right from the beginning, the Revolution has acted without giving a thought as to whether a U.S. or European political sector would applaud it or not. I see these reasons as pretexts.

[Campa] Then why give them the excuse?

[Prieto] We cannot act with fear [torticolis] toward the North in the face of a provocation.

Remaining moderate, Prieto points out that Cuba does not wish to cause tensions with Washington. "You will notice that our language with the U.S. administration is cautious: Ours is not a discourse of war. We do not want to cause tensions, we do not have people marching in the streets. As Fidel said: We are going to defend peace as long as it is in keeping with our honor."

Prieto clarifies that if the Communist Party publishes a document, it does so following an internal need and not because it thinks it is going to have its image approved [perdonar la vida] internationally. He gives assurance that Cuba acts this way "not out of stubbornness, or because of martyr-like ideas [ideas numantinas], or by trying to play the bad guy, but in an effort to carry on with our principles."

"The problem is that when we are asked to make a gesture, there is something disrespectful in such a request. There is always an overall suspicion, a basic doubt, as to the essence itself of the Cuban nation. Then they come and talk without knowing about our process. One feels a colonial relationship. And we have been very tolerant, very kind, and even very careful, with all the governments of the world."

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Prieto does not see in the recent events anything that his country has not already experienced. "These problems are cyclical, and this is what has tempered the Revolution."

[Campa] There is nothing to be alarmed about, then?

[Prieto] We spend our lifetime in a state of alarm and at the same time we celebrate carnival — he says with a smile.

Prieto says: "Personally, I believe these incidents are not going to be a historic landmark in Cuba's relations with the world... they are more in the context of the situation."

And he ends: "If the quarrel between Cuba and the United States worsens, it is not because of light airplanes, or the Cuban Council, or the party's report, but because the ultra-right has taken control and tries through these threats (against the island) to express itself in some way, or because the neo-fascist wave is growing and wants to use Cuba as a scapegoat. That is a reason to become alarmed."

Cuba: Generator Breakdowns Result in Power Outages

PA1206204796 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jun 96

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Breakdowns in generator units at Havana's Mariel Electric Plant and Santiago de Cuba's Rente Electric Plant have resulted in additional outages in the last four days. Repairs are under way around the clock to reestablish electricity service and solve the power outage problem. The maintenance being conducted at the Antonio Guiteras Electric Plant in Matanzas continues as scheduled.

Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic: New Chief of Police Appointed

PA1306060496 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1620 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Santo Domingo, 11 Jun (NOTIMEX) — Government sources today said Dominican Republic President Joaquin Balaguer appointed Admiral Camilo Nazur Tejada as chief of police to replace General Enrique Prez y Prez.

The new, Dominican police chief, who was deputy secretary of the Dominican Armed Forces until the night of 10 June, is perceived as a moderate officer in contrast to Prez y Prez, who is regarded as "repressive."

Nazir Tejada served as military assistant to President Balaguer and was chief of the electoral police during the 1990 and 1994 presidential elections.

The dismissal of Prez y Prez surprised Dominican political circles, because his dismissal comes less than one month after his appointment.

Prez y Prez was appointed police chief on 13 May, three days before the first round of the presidential election won by opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez.

The dismissal of Police Chief Prez y Prez comes after PRD candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez denounced to international organizations an alleged climate of repression during the electoral process. Pena Gomez complained that the police had reinstated an old practice of the Rafael Trujillo dictatorship (1930-1961) of demanding that citizens carry their personal identification cards and voter registration cards under the threat of arrest.

Pena Gomez complained to the OAS and to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter who sent a letter to President Balaguer asking that these police tactics be stopped. [passage omitted]

Haiti

Haiti: Minister Reacts to U.S. Congress Decision on Aid

PA1206190596 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 Jun 96

[From "The Midday Newscast"; passages within slantlines recorded in Creole]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. House of Representatives has adopted several amendments to a bill on $12 billion of foreign economic aid. These amendments might put into question the U.S. aid to Haiti and Turkey. The amendment adopted by the House of Representatives provides for the launching of investigations into the 1995 murders of three opponents to then President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, as a condition for granting aid to Haiti. Rotschild Francois, Jr. interviewed Justice Minister Max Antoine today about this measure. Let us listen.

[Begin recording] [Antoine] /We are already working on this. There is a security element [words indistinct] the brigade is working. The brigade is currently headed by somebody [words indistinct] there are two Americans who came especially from.... [pauses] who are members of the FBI and who are working with the brigade, in the brigade, who.... [pauses] files are divided into three groups: A, B, and C. They are working on the questions. A deputy public prosecutor is attached to the brigade.

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An investigative judge is also assigned to work with the brigade. So, I do not know what they are talking about./

[Francois] /But the Congress has threatened today to suspend the aid to Haiti because of these crimes that are said to have a political nature and that were committed during President Aristide's presidency./

[Antoine] /They will always be able to do whatever they want. I cannot prevent the U.S. Congress from doing what they want to do. That is their business. I believe that in matters that concern them, it is up to them to try to determine what they want. As for us, we have done all we can to respect everybody's rights, to respect human rights, to respect all our commitments, and we will continue to respect our commitments./ [passage omitted] [end recording]

Haiti: Venezuelan Ambassador Notes Improving Cooperation

PA1306021096 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 12 Apr 96

[From "The 0730 Appointment Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cooperation between Haiti and Venezuela is going very well and will keep improving, according to Venezuelan Ambassador to Haiti Irma Antonini. After the politico-economic cooperation, the next step will be a technical cooperation the Haitian and Venezuelan Governments are now studying, said Antonini in an interview she has given to Signal FM. The Venezuelan diplomat also has announced that a mission of Haitian businessmen will leave Haiti for Caracas very soon. [passage omitted]

As for the San Jose Agreement, which should allow Venezuela to sell Haitian petroleum at preferential prices, Antonini has said that that agreement will not allow the price of petroleum products to be reduced on the Haitian market, that Haiti will benefit from a discount of 20 percent on the prices of petroleum products within the guidelines of the San Jose Agreement, and that the Haitian Government should invest this money in the developmental field.

Haiti: Taiwanese Delegation Visits Senate on 11 Jun

PA1306023796 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 12 Apr 96

[From "The 0730 Appointment Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Taiwanese delegation visited the Senate of the Republic on 11 June. The delegation will spend two weeks in Haiti and met with senators of the Republic on the possible establishment of diplomatic relations with Taiwan. The members of this delegation were supposed to meet with the Senate of the Republic as early as last week but had to postpone this meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The meeting between the senators and the Taiwanese delegation at the Legislative Palace on 11 June was very positive, according to several senators.

Our colleague, Pierre Alain Jean-Gilles, who was at the Parliament, reports.

[Jean-Gilles] An important Taiwanese delegation on 11 June met with senators on the possible establishment of diplomatic relations with Taipei. (Michel Li), a member of the Taiwanese delegation, said he proposed to the Haitian senators a project on the development of the country. He said Taiwanese technicians are ready to share their experiences with Haiti. This mission, which will spend two years [as heard] in the country, will cooperate in the fields of infrastructures and construction. [passage omitted]

The representative said his government will work to reinforce bilateral relations. (Li) said the Taiwanese Government will establish a training center in the Artibonite region to train peasants.

The visit of the Chinese delegation is a result of a memorandum signed last year between the Haitian Government and the Taiwanese Ministry of Economic Affairs. The Taiwanese Agricultural mission has been in the country for several days.

Haiti: Nominations for Posts of General Director Announced

PA1206190696 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 Jun 96

[From "The Midday Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Prime Minister's Office, new public administration nominations were announced by presidential order and published. Max Elibert has been nominated for the position of general director at the Ministry of Justice; Emmanuel Grand-Pierre, for general director at the Ministry of the Haitians Living Abroad; Nanie Piou, for general director at the Ministry of National Education — she took office this past weekend; Jean-Daniel Elie was nominated for general director at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Wilfrid Suprena, for general director at the Ministry of Social Affairs; Gladys Guiteau, for general director of the Haitian National Post Office; Benito Prato, for general director of the National Port Authority, APN; Roland Neptune, for general director for the National Airport Authority; and Emile Jean-Baptiste, for general director of the Haitian National Presses.

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Haiti: Resolution Dissolving Armed Forces Approved

PA1306033396 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 12 Apr 96

[From "The 0730 Appointment Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The night of 11 June, Haitian parliamentarians approved a resolution already adopted in the Senate. The Chamber of Deputies approved this resolution with the objective of dissolving the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]. This resolution was ratified during a session at the Chamber of Deputies yesterday. Twenty-five out of 42 deputies approved the text. The resolution does not have the strength of a law; it merely prohibits the budget allotted to the former FADH.

According to an article in the resolution, the 47th Haitian legislature will have to dissolve the former FADH officially. Verrettes Deputy Paul Andre Garconnet said the resolution should be voted on article by article so they may find those responsible for the violations of human rights under the former regime. [passage omitted]

The Haitian Senate decided to dissolve the Haitian Army in a resolution on which they voted before President Aristide left power in February. The senators stated in that resolution that they committed themselves to adopt a clause with the objective of putting an end to the Army, which in actuality does not exist, but former military personnel demonstrated last Monday.... [pauses] to state the existence of the former FADH. These former military personnel say only the Constitution can decide the fate of the military institution. During the demonstration that took place in the streets of Port-au-Prince, the former military members demanded the pension checks, about 20 months worth, the government owes them.

The latest resolution of the deputies backs up the Senate's resolution. Both chambers must decide on the Haitian Army issue. The former Haitian military members said that they would stage large demonstrations in the coming days, that they were going to the mountains to force the authorities of Port-au-Prince to hear their claims and pay the paychecks they owe them, and to force the officials to acknowledge the existence of the military institution.

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Mexico: Zedillo Says Government Strong, Downplays Rumors

PA1206133796 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0330 GMT 12 Jun 96

[By Fernando Sanchez Marquez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ottawa, 11 Jun (NOTIMEX) — Today, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo said here that he is not worried over rumors and remarked that he is a strong president with a democratic presidency, guided by facts and actions.

In an interview with the Canadian television network CBC, President Zedillo broached economic, political, and social topics and referred to the rumors on the alleged changes in his government.

The president pointed out that several persons in Mexico who still believe in authoritarian regimes would like to see an authoritarian president, but he clarified that he has chosen democracy.

"That (an authoritarian regime) would be very simple, but even though it is more difficult, a democratic president is better for Mexico and this is what I have decided to do," he stressed.

Zedillo mentioned that he is a strong president because of the over 17 million Mexicans who supported him in the 1994 elections, deemed as the cleanest in Mexico's history.

President Zedillo added that he does not believe in spectacular definitive measures that will change everything. "I must be realistic" and consistent, he indicated.

Concerning several rumors of alleged changes in his government, Zedillo emphasized that "two things are necessary to make these types of comments: 1. A person or a group of friends who decide to begin some rumors, and 2. Media that repeat and disseminate these rumors.

He contended that he is not worried about these rumors and maintained that he has the necessary strength to face the enemies of his democratic reforms, because, in a strictly democratic sense, "I believe that I am truly a strong president."

The president said that consequently, one of his main objectives, as president, is to make Mexico a country of laws and that he believes his country has made progress in this regard through deeds and not only pleasant words.

Regarding the Helms-Burton law, which includes extraterritorial provisions, he ruled out the possibility that this legislation might be blocked, because it should be up to the United States to acknowledge that a mistake has been made and that it must be corrected.

President Zedillo added that "we have adopted several actions and we hope to implement them with Canada. We are taking this position to the OAS and several of these measures are considered within NAFTA's framework."

He reiterated that Mexico will try to protect itself from those illegal actions, but eventually, these actions will have to be dealt with in talks and negotiations with the United States. President Zedillo expressed his confidence that these negotiations will be productive.

In the program "The Lead," he noted that to achieve the goal of his reforms, implementation stages must focus on strengthening the institutions, as the legal framework and the system's foundation. However, he predicted that the institutions will have to be reformed in order to be improved.

The president added that another fundamental aspect is culture, which must focus on instilling in the Mexican people trust in the rules and the laws, in addition to pleasant or embellished words on laws.

Mexico: Zedillo Addresses Canadian Chamber of Commons

PA1206171996 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1228 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Report by Televisa special reporter Ritan Ganem in Ottawa, Canada; from the "Upon Awakening" newscast — passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning. President Zedillo's tour has fueled several reports by the Canadian press and I would like to quote some of them. For example, this is from THE GLOBE AND MAIL, which publishes today on its front page a large photograph of President Zedillo. Toronto's THE TORONTO STAR, for example, stated: President Zedillo has overcome more troubled waters than many of his predecessors could have ever imagined. It also stated that Mexico's potential is as real as its problems and the Mexican president deserves Canada's support. THE GLOBE AND MAIL refers to regained confidence in Mexico by foreign entrepreneurs. CTV National News dedicated one minute to the presidential visit and CBS's Business World, six minutes.

What yielded the greatest impact, which was covered by international wire services, was President Zedillo's statements to journalist Elizabeth Palmer, in an interview for the CBC Canadian television network's Beneath program. There, President Zedillo said that he is not worried over rumors of his alleged resignation before completing his term. In reply to the question, the

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Mexican president said: I am a strong, but I am a democratic president. President Zedillo said that if he were an authoritarian president, as some would like, it would be simpler. But he has decided to be a democratic president because this is what is best for Mexico.

During yesterday's activities, President Ernesto Zedillo spoke in a joint session of the Chamber of Commons and the Senate. According to what the president of the Chamber of Commons said yesterday, joint sessions are very rare and take place on very special occasions — and this was one of them. Let us hear what the president said in the Chamber of Commons and Senate on one of the delicate topics of regional policies. Mexico and Canada stated their rejection to the application in third countries of the U.S. Helms-Burton law. Before legislators, diplomats, and numerous special guests gathered in the Federal Parliament's Great Hall in Ottawa, President Ernesto Zedillo affirmed that Mexico agrees with Canada in opposing legislation that is contrary to the freedom to trade and international law.

[Begin Zedillo recording] Like Canada, Mexico opposes legislations whose applicability involve extraterritoriality, which is contrary to international law. [applause] Like Canada, Mexico considers unacceptable all measures that instead of encouraging liberty, blocks it from others; which instead of demolishing barriers, erects them to the detriment of international investment and trade. [end recording]

President Zedillo said that Mexico clearly has a market economy and an open economy.

[Begin Zedillo recording] My government has not seen in last years' difficulties any reason for a freeze-up, frustration, return back to past policies, or postpone changes. [end recording]

The Mexican president also referred to the Chiapas conflict, which he attributed to problems of backwardness, poverty, and injustice.

[Begin Zedillo recording] In Chiapas, the solution is not violence, but the law; it is not in rancor, but dialogue; it is not confrontation, but negotiation until an agreement is consolidated that will ensure harmonious coexistence to overcome the root of the problems. [end recording]

Mexico: Cooperation Agreements Signed With Canada

PA1206153396 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1744 GMT 11 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ottawa, 11 Jun (NOTIMEX) — Canada and Mexico today signed two mutual cooperation agreements and four letters of intent during the official visit to Canada of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo from 10 to 14 June.

The agreements on Parallel Distance Learning Networks and the Implementation of an Agreement for Cooperation in the Field of Distance Learning were signed by Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Jose Angel Gurria Trevino.

Through the development of parallel communications networks, teachers and students from the two countries will have access to information and training program services similar to those offered by the Canadian Ministry of Industry through SchoolNet, which is already in operation.

The Agreement for Cooperation in the Field of Distance Learning goes into effect in the year 2001 and will allow diplomats from the two countries to exchange points of view and policy decisions to further advancement in the development of education technology and interactive communication.

Axworthy and Gurria also signed a letter of intent on the exchange of Foreign Service members, which will allow diplomats from the two countries to spend a year in the Foreign Ministry of the other country to help them improve as professionals in their specialization.

This letter of intent goes into effect in the fall.

Moreover, Canadian Natural Resources Minister Anne McLellan and Mexican Energy Secretary Jesus Reyes Heroles signed on Tuesday an letter for Cooperation on Alternate and Efficient Energy.

McLellan told NOTIMEX in a brief interview, that this agreement will promote the conservation of natural resources and the preservation of the environment by using alternate energy systems, including solar and nuclear energy.

Likewise, McLellan and Mexican Commerce and Industrial Development Secretary Herminio Blanco signed two additional agreements for Cooperation in Mining Policies, replacing the agreement signed in 1993, and The Agreement for Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Geomatics and Cartography.

Before the signing ceremony, the two foreign ministers and the two energy ministers held separate meetings, while President Ernesto Zedillo had a working breakfast with the Ottawa's leading businessmen.

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Nicaragua

Nicaragua: President Downplays 'Coup Rumors'

PA1206213196 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jun 96

[From the "What's Happening?" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro downplayed reports from the United States yesterday on a coup d'etat against her. These reports were circulated last weekend during an official social activity attended by some members of the diplomatic corps and a former presidential adviser, who is accused of spreading the coup rumors.

The president said from the United States that she has confidence in the loyalty of the Army because it would not permit these kinds of actions against her government. Military intelligence, however, is conducting an investigation.

Panama

Panama: President Rejects Drug Trafficking Allegations

PA1206201596 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Good afternoon and welcome to this last minute newscast. We are in the Caesar Park's Hotel's Great Saloon, where as you can see, President Ernesto Perez Balladares is still here attending the inauguration of the International Advertising Association [preceding three words in English].

A few minutes ago, the president made an important announcement in reaction to publications made in international newspapers and magazines, which link government officials with drug trafficking. These publications make reference to the use of funds from these illegal activities, including money laundering, in the past electoral campaign that lead him to the presidency.

We will now listen to that speech, which ended just a few minutes ago.

[Begin Perez Balladares recording] This morning, while I had breakfast with a group of friends and ministers who are very close to me, I told them that if I become aware that any of those sitting at this table have violated any law of the Republic, or has been associated with money laundering or drug trafficking, they may be sure that I will be the first to request that that person be charged and jailed.

What I told them can be applied even to the intimate members of my family. I do not cover up for anyone; only for the Panamanian people.

It is for this reason that we are going to take whatever measures are necessary. We are going to evaluate the legal measures that can be used against those people who have made disparaging remarks against the Republic. You can be sure that this president will not let go unnoticed or turn a deaf ear to reports that damage the reputation and prestige of my country. I have absolutely nothing to cover up, absolutely nothing to protect, absolutely nothing of which to be ashamed. To the contrary, I again publicly challenge whoever has any sort of information that links any member of my administration or any member of my campaign with money laundering or drug trafficking, to say so publicly. I challenge that it be placed in hands of the Panamanian courts and justice system. What I am not going to do, for the sake of respect to the freedom of expression, is to allow the continued defamation — not just of my name or that of my government — of the name of the Republic of Panama. Thank you all. [applause] [end recording]

Panama: President Refutes Reports, Denies U.S. 'Pressure'

PA1306013496 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Report by Ilka Gonzalez; from "RPC Television News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Perez Balladares today rejected international reports linking his election campaign to drug trafficking and money laundering. He said that investigations have disclosed that a government official, who was dismissed, has been accompanying journalists who have published false reports.

Perez Balladares said that no U.S. Government agency is behind the campaign to discredit the Republic of Panama, adding that relations with that country are cordial and based on mutual respect. He denied that Mayor Alfredo Aleman's resignation from the Board of Directors of the National Bank was due to U.S. pressure.

[Begin Perez Balladares recording] I would like to say that I deny reports in the sense that the United States exerted pressures so that I would accept his resignation. That part of those reports is totally false. LA PRENSA today reproduced a reaction from one of the journalists who wrote one of the articles, who wanted us to point out the lies. I told him that his allegation about U.S. pressures was false. [end recording]

President Perez Balladares said Aleman resigned because he learned of his possible indictment in the United States, and it was better for him to resign in order not

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to tarnish the government's image. He added that it has been detected that a former Panamanian government official has been accompanying journalists who have been writing those false reports.

[Begin recording] This person, who feels alienated and annoyed with the government, has been accompanying all the journalists who have been writing articles that suggest falsehoods, starting with the one who writes for THE ECONOMIST. By the way, I forgot to mention something. In this particular case — THE ECONOMIST's article — as I have said before, my lawyers have been conducting investigations in London, as that is where we would file a lawsuit, to determine if there are enough grounds to win — not to file a suit as there are enough reasons for that — but to win a suit of this nature in the British courts. By the end of this week British lawyers will be arriving in Panama. Of course I will receive them, because their initial reply, which they are evaluating, is that there are enough grounds to file a lawsuit against that newspaper or magazine, which I will do.

That incident, which could have gone unnoticed, was complemented Monday by an article published by THE MIAMI HERALD, and today with another article that appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES. I repeat, all the articles follow the same trend and line. They are all, in one way or another, linked to the research journalist, his original investigation, and to this estranged government official. [end recording]

Perez Balladares stressed that no one in his government is above the law.

[Begin Perez Balladares recording] Let no one, not even my closest aides, assume that they can commit illegal actions without being punished. I publicly challenge anyone who may have information, of any sort, linking any member of my government or any member of my campaign with money laundering or drug trafficking, to say it publicly. I challenge any such person to go to the courts and put the case in the hands of Panamanian justice. [end recording]

Perez Balladares made that statement during the installation of the board of directors of the International Advertising Association, an organization comprising advertising firms from various countries.

Panama: Opposition Willing To Open Campaign Records

PA1306054096 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Report by Alexander Calderon; from "RPC Television News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition political parties have said that they are willing to open to the public their financial records from the 1994 electoral campaign.

Mireya Moscoso, president of the Arnulfista Party [PA], said that that political group is willing to open its books to disclose the origin of the funds used in the past election campaign.

[Begin Moscoso recording, broadcast in progress] ... so that everybody will know who donated money to us during the 1994 campaign. I believe, however, that it is wrong to be irresponsibly accusing the opposition and saying that if the opposition opens its records, the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] would be willing to open its own. The opposition is not being questioned here; the PRD is being questioned by the international media. Therefore, they are the ones who should open their records. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Ramon Quijano, president of the Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement, Molirena, said all political parties should keep their financial records open permanently.

[Begin Quijano recording] I think this is a citizens' responsibility we should all assume. In the same manner, I believe that citizens who want to contribute donations to a political party — any political party — should be willing to admit it, because that is how democracy works. I do not think it is sinful for a citizen to support a political party. [end recording]

Christian Democratic Party President Ruben Arosemena also said it is willing to show its books, but rejected a statement by PRD Secretary General Mitchel Doens, who accused the opposition of conducting a campaign in the foreign media to question the origin of the money used in the campaign of President Ernesto Perez Balladares.

[Begin Arosemena recording] I invite Labor Minister Doens, who has irresponsibly accused the opposition without any grounds, to prove his charges. This country is tired of unfounded accusations. I invite Miniter Mitchel Doens to accuse any member of the opposition of making groundless accusations. The ones who are lying are the ones who cannot prove the contrary. [end recording]

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He added that in this case the PRD should set the example and be the first party to publicly open its campaign records.

Panama: U.S. Said Not Providing Environmental Reports

PA1206223096 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Esperanza Navarro Francois]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Sayda de Grimaldo, director of the Technical Unit for Canal Affairs and the ARI [Interoceanic Region Authority] Hydrographic Basin, revealed that the U.S. Government is not providing the detailed environmental reports that guarantee that the areas reverted to Panama are completely decontaminated of toxic substances.

Grimaldo said that the reports dubbed Installation Commission Reports (ICR), which are provided by the members of the Joint Committee from the U.S. Government, do not include an environmental study nor do they include basic information that would allow for a knowledgeable opinion regarding the true situation of the said areas.

In the 24th Plenary Meeting of the Joint Environmental Commission, Grimaldo pointed out that the programs and studies being conducted on the military bases are not submitted to Panama, and Panama has no access to them, either.

She indicated that following joint visits by members of the two governments through different military areas, Panama has asked for an explanation or for further details regarding several specific situations, which, thus far, have not been looked into or have not been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

She noted that the only occasion on which the United States accepted Panama's proposal was when Panama suggested that a green substance that was found at the Fort Espinar installations be examined. After several months, this substance was confirmed to be "Paris green" and steps were taken to remove it.

Panama: Official Says U.S. Must Return Bases in Good Shape

PA1306034296 Panama City EL UNIVERSAL DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jun 96 p 40

[Report by Victor Dagoberto Torres]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramiro Castrejon, executive secretary of the Joint Commission on the Environment, has said the United States is responsible for turning over the military bases to Panama in good shape once the U.S. military troops along the Canal are withdrawn in the year 2000. Castrejon made this statement during a plenary meeting of this joint commission yesterday.

The commission will deal with the impact that accidents in the Canal have on Canal operations and with the cleaning of the military bases, among other issues of interest.

Castrejon said the cleaning of the military bases is an important issue for Panama and the joint commission, because it will indicate in what environmental shape the Canal will return to the Republic. He said it is important to guarantee to Panama that the military bases that will be returning to the country soon are totally clean and free of all toxic material that may act against the life, health, or security of people, as the Panama Canal Treaty states in Article 4. That article in the Panama Canal Treaty establishes that the United States is responsible for cleaning the military areas before returning them.

Castrejon said the U.S. Armed forces must deliver to Panama a document stating the environmental shape existing at the time of the return.

Castrejon said: "There will be a joint verification by Panamanian Government and U.S. Armed Forces officials to establish that the environmental shape in which the bases are returned is acceptable."

Juan Antonio Stagg, executive director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Department, has said the joint commission has nothing to do with any possible permanence of the U.S. military bases in Panama.

Stagg has said his department is not participating in talks about a possible permanence of U.S. military bases, because it is up to President Ernesto Perez Balladares to decide whether it is suitable to initiate talks on this issue.

Stagg has said the president and acting Foreign Minister Ricardo Alberto Arias have declared that Panama and the United States are making consultations before initiating exploratory talks.

Stagg has said that there have been informal talks with U.S. officials so far but that no exploratory talks have been initiated.

U.S. Ambassador William Hughes has said Panama and the U.S. Government are holding exploratory talks.

Stagg has said Ambassador Hughes has visited the Panamanian foreign minister to discuss the issue of renegotiating military bases, but these talks have not been direct ones on how to establish whether there is interest in military sites remaining in the country beyond the year 2000.

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Bolivia

Bolivia: News Summary for 10 Jun

96CA0199A (Internet) Bolivian Social Communications Ministry WWW in Spanish 10 Jun 96 Morning Edition

[From the Computer Services Network of the Bolivian Social Communications Ministry http://utama.bolnet.bo:80/mcs/matind.htm]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Editorials [passage omitted]

PRESENCIA

Narcoconnections and Surprises

The Fernandez Lazcano case is one of the cases in which truth is stranger than fiction. Either he is a magician or there is some powerful person who is at the same time protecting him, pulling his strings, and using him. In such a situation, it is very hard to keep suspicions from arising that behind the scenes of the narcoconnections trial, some political interests or interests of another nature might be at work, which may be detrimental to the proper operation of law. This matter is in the hands of justice, which has a responsibility to determine whether crimes were committed. [passage omitted]

Economic News [passage omitted]

Oil Reserves Attract Investors

In the process of privatizing YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits], potential partners are being attracted by Bolivia's reserves of both crude and natural gas, and also by Bolivia's location in relation to the geography of the Southern Cone region.

Bolivia's present petroleum reserves come to a total of 250 million barrels of petroleum and 7.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, so the nation's petroleum and gas future is "interesting" to potential partners, says the president of YPFB, Arturo Castanos.

According to the YPFB executive, 13 companies are in competition to become strategic partners in Units A and B for hydrocarbon exploration and production. Their economic proposals are to be submitted next month. [passage omitted]

General Information [passage omitted]

Umopar Destroys Factories and Confiscates Cocaine

Cochabamba. With the destruction of nine hectares of new coca plantings, 420 meters of coca seedlings and eight cocaine factories, and the confiscation of 8,800 grams of drugs, the Aroma operation has been completed. This operation was conducted in Isiboro Secure National Park.

Colonel Luis Caballero, the Umopar [Mobile Rural Patrol Unit] commander, called the operation a success. He said that no violent confrontations were reported; on the contrary, agreements were signed to continue the voluntary coca crop eradication program.

Bolivia: News Summary for 11 Jun

96CA0200A (Internet) Bolivian Social Communications Ministry WWW in Spanish 11 Jun 96 Morning Edition

[From the Computer Services Network of the Bolivian Social Communications Ministry http://utama.bolnet.bo:80/mcs/matind.htm]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Front Page News Briefs [passage omitted]

Cofadena Ordered Large Array of Arms

An arms shipment that was impressive in terms of both its quantity and diversity is listed in detail in Secret Decree No 1633 signed by Argentine President Carlos Menem in 1992, based on the $51.6 million order submitted at that time by Cofadena [Bolivian Armed Forces National Development Corporation] to FMA [Argentine Military Industries]. In Madrid, Spain, Bolivia's former Defense Minister Hector Ormachea (ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action]), in a letter to the Bolivian ambassador in Spain, Javier Campero Paz, says that if such an arms order did indeed exist, it was not with his knowledge. [passage omitted]

Political News [passage omitted]

Commission to Protect Tourists' Safety Formed

The most recent assaults perpetrated against tourists in La Paz department and the proximity of the "high season" when large numbers of visitors travel to Bolivia yesterday led the Internal Affairs Secretariat and the private and state sectors which deal with tourism to set up a joint commission to create mechanisms to protect the safety of visitors to Bolivia.

In a meeting between the secretary of internal affairs, Hugo San Martin, hotel operators, representatives of travel agencies, and others, it was decided to issue a resolution requiring operators to equip their tourism transport vehicles with radiotransmitters and to provide a guide to assist tourists in all circumstances.

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'Sobredietas' Case to be Considered in Congress

After the Prosecutor's Office issued its indictments in the 'sobredietas' [congressional corruption scandal in which deputies tried to lengthen their government service time to qualify for larger longevity bonuses] case to the Chamber of Deputies, the case will be debated by the full Chamber and may then be "sent to the appropriate organization, the Constitution Commission, so that another report can be issued," said the first secretary of that legislative body, Miguel Antoraz.

Yesterday the congressional leaders met; there was an inclination to transfer the case immediately to the Constitution Commission; however, some members of Parliament apparently objected, which forced a decision to be made that the issue would be brought to the attention of the Chamber to be debated there.

Surplus Coca Crop to be Eradicated

All of Bolivia's surplus coca crop located in the Cochabamba area will be eradicated within five years, stated the secretary for social protection, Victor Hugo Canelas.

That was one of the major announcements made during the opening day of the Andean Community's antidrug conference. The conference is being held in the Hotel Plaza in La Paz and is chaired by Canelas. [passage omitted]

General Information [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Candidates Suggested

Sucre. The names of three candidates have been proposed as possible replacements for the current Supreme Court president, Edgar Rosales Lijeron, who has announced that he will leave his office on 31 July. Among the possible candidates are Hugo Dellien, Oscar Hassenteufel, and Hugo Poppe Entrambasaguas.

Various names of candidates and possible candidates have been mentioned. One who supposedly had the strongest support was Hugo Poppe; however, according to Poppe, he has allegedly withdrawn his name from consideration, on the grounds that the right conditions do not exist for handling that position successfully.

Brazil

Brazil: Land Invasions on Rise Near Developed Cities

96SM0353A Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jun 96

[Article by George Alonso: "Invasions Increased by 68 Percent in Southeast" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Land invasions have increased by 68 percent in the southeastern region (Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and Espirito Santo). This information was provided in the annual report on disputes over land drafted by the Pastoral Commission for Land Affairs (CPT) of the Catholic Church.

A preface for the document was provided by Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns, the cardinal archbishop of Sao Paulo.

In 1994, there were 22 occupations of rural properties in the southeastern region, as compared to 37 in 1995. Of these incidents, 26 occurred in the Pontal do Paranapanema (extreme western part of Sao Paulo).

A total of 8,910 families of rural workers were involved in the occupations of land in this region.

The report indicates that there has been a change in the axis of the land invasions. The increase has occurred precisely in the more modernized areas of the country.

This is mainly the result of the decision of the Landless People's Movement (MST) to focus its priority activities on the areas close to small and medium-size cities in the more developed states.

The MST believes today that agrarian reform needs to be linked with the cities in order to make the settlements viable.

The northeast still leads in the absolute number of land seizures. There were 56 in 1995, representing an increase of 30 percent over the total of 43 reported in 1994.

Forecast for 1996

According to the report, the trend toward an increase in clashes over land is continuing. The number of land seizures and the number of families involved have increased by 100 percent in the past five years.

In 1991, there were 77 land invasions involving 14,720 families. In 1995, there were 146 (30,476 families) and in 1994, 119 (20,516 families).

The leadership of the MST, the only organized body of landless individuals in the country, predicts a further increase in land seizures in 1996. Prior to May, 24,507

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landless families affiliated with the MST alone occupied 45 properties. "This is bound to occur, because the social crisis is intensifying and because the government only acts under pressure. Moreover, society supports agrarian reform today," Egidio Brunetto, a MST official, said.

The report further contains figures that reveal a general increase in clashes in the rural sector other than those involving landless people.

In all, 554 clashes were reported, including 440 involving land disputes, 21 involving slave labor, and another 93 involving labor, union, drought, and farm policy issues.

The number of deaths resulting from such conflicts declined from 47 in 1994 to 41 in 1995. This is consistent with the trend observed since 1985, when there were 139 deaths.

The document emphasizes that there has been a trend in the increase of massacres such as those which occurred in Corumbiara (RO). Rondonia, with 15 assassinations, and Para, with 14, are in the lead.

Special Court Judge

In the report, the CPT defends the seizures of land by landless people, calling them a means of rejecting their "status as the expendable victims of modernization." The CPT also criticizes the actions of the courts in the cases involving clashes over land. Cardinal Arns says that "without agrarian reform, Brazil will become a land of explosions." In his opinion, reform must guarantee the infrastructure needed for production.

Thousands of Slave Laborers

The CPT report also notes a trend in the past five years toward increasing numbers of victims of slave labor. In all, 26,047 people were engaged in slave or semislave labor in 1995, as compared to 25,193 in 1994.

However, there was a decline in the number of reported cases of enslavement recorded. Twenty-one such cases were recorded in 1995, 28 in 1994, and 29 in 1993. In other words, the figures indicate that fewer enterprises were still using slave labor. The CPT report recognizes the effort made by the government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (FHC) in this area with the creation in 1995 of the Executive Group for the Suppression of Forced Labor (GERTRAF).

The text goes on to say that the creation of this group was an act "affirming an attitude designed to be progressive and modern."

However, the document expresses reservations about the efficiency of the GERTRAF. "Its actions have been hindered by a lack of agility" involving the "failure to reach sites before the news has spread."

The report also says that there has been a lack of cooperation on the part of the federal police, and urges the Cardoso government to provide authority and resources to combat slavery.

The CPT cites forced labor situations at the coal pits in the northern part of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso do Sul. These are the states where the largest number of such occurrences have been reported.

Alexander Van Schelle, the Dutch consul in Sao Paulo, has taken a number of copies of the book entitled "Rural Conflicts: Brazil 95" to Europe for distribution.

Brazil: Small-Scale Electoral Reform Forecast

96SM0353B Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jun 96

[Article by Olimpio Cruz Neto — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia—The political reform the Congress is to draft beginning in August may be less bold than some Brazilian political leaders would wish.

It is likely to be limited to the approval of a few constitutional amendments and the redrafting of the Organizational Law on Political Parties (LOPP) and the Electoral Code.

The likelihood of a profound change in the party and electoral picture such as the PFL [Liberal Front Party] and the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] are urging is very small.

Both parties are regarded as the principal advocates of a more radical political reform within the Congress.

Despite this, the spokesmen for the PFL themselves are now admitting that the political agenda may be limited to approval of the amendments pertaining to reelection to executive posts and measures providing greater flexibility on the second round of voting for the candidate winning a third of the votes on the first round. The more controversial proposals, such as that which would cancel the mandates of congressmen who change parties, that pertaining to the adoption of mixed district voting, and also that establishing a performance clause, have little likelihood of being approved.

An Alternative Proposal

FOLHA has learned that instead of the performance clause, which calls for representation in the Congress only for parties winning at least five percent of the votes in the elections, the option will be for the prohibition

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of coalitions in the proportional elections (deputies and councilmen).

It is believed that this is an alternate way of limiting the parties.

The argument for seeking a more limited reform is based on the theory that the congressmen will not impose rules upon themselves that make their own political survival more difficult.

On the practical side, there is also the problem of the crowded congressional agenda. In the second half of the year, the Congress is scheduled to study the government proposals on welfare, administration, and tax reform.

The Small Parties

As if these difficulties were not enough, the small and average-size parties have been warning that they are not prepared to approve a reform that will, in theory, benefit only the large parties—the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], the PSDB, and the PFL.

For example, the requirement that a party win at least five percent of the votes in the el ions for the Chamber of Deputies, as set forth in the performance clause might reduce the number of parties in the Congress to eight. Currently, 18 parties are represented in the National Congress.

Deputy Joao Almeida (PMDB, Bahia), rapporteur of the Chamber's special commission on political and electoral reform, believes that the three parties—the steamroller that has won victories for the government—are strong enough to ensure approval of the proposals. He is the author of 13 constitutional amendments, including the controversial performance clause. "The issue will be resolved in plenary session. Those who have the most votes will win," the deputy says.

Repeated Efforts Made

Joao Almeida has already served as the rapporteur for six political and electoral reform proposals in the past five years. This is indicative of the efforts the Congress has made to change the electoral system, but without great success.

The circumstantial interests of the congressmen have prevailed, and in the end, the changes end up being less bold than might have been desired.

Chile

Chile: Correction to U.S. Urged To Change Attitude

PY1106152196 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 7 Jun 96 p 2

[Corrected version of editorial "Diplomatic Cowardice?" originally filed as PY0706230496 and published on page 57 of the 10 June Latin America DAILY REPORT; passage within slantlines in final paragraph clearing indistinct words]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the pieces of advice that used to be given to diplomats of the old school was one of examplary simplicity: "Never fail to take advantage of the opportunity to remain silent."

Apparently the U.S. representative before the OAS, Harriet Babbit, definitely does not know that advice. She also does not know the most basic rules of manners that regulate the relations among people who have the delicate task of representing their countries. The single fact that she labeled the OAS resolution rejecting the Helms-Burton law as "diplomatic cowardice" shows that she lacks tact and talent, which are the essential elements of diplomacy.

Getting into the essence of the issue, the unanimous OAS decision regarding this law proves that not even the NAFTA partners of the United States — Canada and Mexico — share the imperial dream that is hardly disguised in the U.S. law that approves extraterritorial enforcement, without taking into account the meaning of violation of other nations' sovereignty.

But the law not only violates the sovereignty of the nations of the international community; it also violates clear regulations of the OAS and UN charters, contradicts the principles that inspire the actions of the WTO, and, as if that were not enough, disregards the basic rules of international law.

The EU has also reacted against this law that disregards the basic principle of respect for sovereignty. Within this context, it is strange that the United States, despite the adverse international reaction, insists that the Helms-Burton Law be respected. It is hoped that after the setback it suffered in an organization that is traditionally favorable to its interests, the United States will change its attitude and choose the path of respect for nations.

Because if the United States stubbornly wants to implement the law, it will awaken the distrust /of all the countries of the world, which will be wondering, and rightly so, whether this is the New International Order that will be prevalent throughout the wo.id following the end of the Cold War./

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Colombia

Colombia: Samper's Defense Attorney Interviewed

PA1206165196 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Luis Guillermo Nieto Roa, President Ernesto Samper's defense attorney, by Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi, and reporters Judith Sarmiento, Hernan Pelaez, and Javier Ayala — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Arizmendi] In a few minutes we will be speaking with President Samper's defense attorney...

[Pelaez, interrupting] I would like to ask you a question first.

[Arizmendi] What is it?

[Pelaez] The fact that the Chamber of Representatives' vote will be taking place at the same time a major soccer game, which, according to latest poll, is the sport followed the most by Colombians, is a coincidence or not?

[Arizmendi] I believe it is a coincidence.

[Pelaez] You really believe it is a coincidence?

[Arizmendi] Yes, I do. However, let us ask Dr. Luis Guillermo Nieto Roa...

[Pelaez, interrupting] Would you rather watch Cordoba and Zambrano, or [Representative Carlos Alonso] Lucio?

[Arizmendi] Are you asking me if I like soccer?

[Pelaez] You and many other Colombians will most likely watch soccer today.

[Arizmendi] Well, we can be...

[Pelaez, interrupting] Yes, do you really believe anyone would rather to watch Lucio or...

[Arizmendi, interrupting] ...instead of the political debate.

[Pelaez] You still believe it was a coincidence?

[Arizmendi] I believe this was the case.

[Pelaez] Was it something unforeseen?

[Arizmendi] Dr. Luis Guillermo Nieto Roa, good morning.

[Nieto] Good morning, Dario. How are you?

[Arizmendi] Is it a coincidence that the vote will be taking place at practically the same time America and Gremio clubs will be playing the semifinals of the Libertadores Cup soccer championship?

[Nieto] Yes, I think it is. Yesterday, there was an attempt to make some changes during the morning hours. However, as the country has been able to witness, there is a sort of struggle among the representatives to be the last speaker to address the chamber. They all want to be the last speaker. This led to a recess being called while an agreement was sought and the debates restarted sometime near 1900. The Chamber of Representatives was unable to carry out what it had initially planned to do, which was to wrap up all the addresses and the vote procedure yesterday.

[Sarmiento] Dr. Nieto, are you going to file a slander lawsuit against Liberal Representative Ingrid Betancourt who during her speech alluded to President Samper as a criminal and a Judas for having sold off the country to the drug traffickers?

[Nieto] No, no, no. I believe that during political debates people tend to utter immoderate and thoughtless remarks. In addition, they also tend to overlook that they are not in a political rally [plazas publicas] and that pompous remarks are unnecessary. At any rate, I believe that this should not lead to filing slander lawsuits against each of the representatives who used harsh remarks. Many intemperate remarks have been used throughout the debates. They have been used by both sides, those who believe that to defend the president they had to attack others, as well as by those who believed in the need to resort to caustic remarks to attack the president. I believe that what we have to try to do is to reach an end to this episode with a few incidents as possible. Personally, I believe that if a process of lawsuits were to be started at this stage based on what this or that person said instead of trying to seek the country's well-being, what we would be doing is simply opening more wounds.

[Ayala] Dr. Nieto how will the cases or petition for annulment be handled?

[Nieto] Well, personally, I believe there is no reason for an annulment of all that has been done up to now. In this respect, I believe that the only reason where there could be an annulment would be the issue I could invoke at this time for having denied the right...

[Sarmiento, interrupting] Dr. Nieto, annulment petitions have already been proposed. There are nine and...

[Nieto, interrupting] Yes, there are nine, but the fact that...

[Sarmiento, continues] ...actually, they have already been filed.

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[Nieto, continues] ...they have already been proposed, but this does not mean that they will resolved in a favorable manner.

[Arizmendi] How are these petitions to be resolved and who is responsible for this?

[Nieto] The issue will be resolved this afternoon during the plenary sessions. There is a committee that include three representatives who are responsible for analyzing annulment proposals and present a report before the plenary that will be meeting this afternoon. I believe, even though I have not spoken to any of the members of the committee, that their report will be adverse to any annulment request.

[Sarmiento] We have just heard Luis Guillermo Nieto, defense attorney for President Samper, who pointed out that the fact that the Chamber of Representative's vote and the soccer game are to take place at the same time is a mere coincidence. At any rate, he believes it is important for all of us to end this process without opening any more wounds and heal the wounds that have already been inflicted on the country.

Colombia: Senate Head Says U.S. Attitude 'Unacceptable'

PA1206195996 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1536 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 12 Jun (EFE) — Julio Cesar Guerra, president of the Colombian Senate, described as unacceptable the U.S. pretense of telling the Colombian Congress how it should vote on President Samper's responsibility in the receipt of drug trafficking money into his campaign.

In a letter made public today and addressed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Guerra criticized the 24 May statements by U.S. spokesman Nicholas Burns who raised doubts about the credibility of the Colombian parliament in trying Samper.

Burns discredited the Colombian Chamber of Representative's Accusations Committee for recommending in the plenary session closing the case against Samper.

This recommendation will be voted on in the next few hours. The local media believe that the case against the president will be closed and filed away by a wide majority vote.

According to Guerra, the U.S. attitude seems to be saying that Colombian congressmen would only be doing the correct thing "if they voted against the president."

"Such an interpretation of our duty cannot be accepted," added the Senate president. He remains a member of Samper's Liberal Party and has been one of Samper's main allies and defenders in the so-called "narcoscandal."

Burns' statements have caused heated protests by the Colombian Government, whose foreign minister described them as being an "improper intervention."

Over the past few weeks, there have been many conjectures on whether the United States will apply economic sanctions if the Chamber of Representatives acquits Samper, as expected, of the charge that he got into office thanks to drug money.

In March, U.S. President Bill Clinton decertified the Samper administration's drug policies. This then paved the way for direct economic sanctions that can be very serious, because the United States is Colombia's main trading partner.

Colombia: Representatives Reject Annulment Motions

PA1306050996 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0426 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 12 Jun (EFE) — Today, the Chamber of Representatives in Colombia rejected 10 motions to annul the trial against President Ernesto Samper for his alleged use of drug money to gain the presidency, and the representatives will now vote on a draft resolution that recommends his exoneration.

The motions were submitted by parliamentary members from various parties, including some from the ruling Liberal Party, who reported irregularities like an alleged partiality in favor of Samper by the congressmen who prepared the dossier.

Various representatives listed dozens of pieces of evidence from witnesses' depositions that, according to them, were received by those who were investigating the case but were not included in the copy of the file distributed at the plenary session.

The Chamber of Representatives ruled, however, by 125 votes against 28, that nine of the 10 annulment motions were unacceptable because they were presented without respecting procedural norms.

The tenth motion was rejected with the same basic argument, but with 102 votes against 43.

The last recourse used by Samper's enemies has been overcome. These enemies have termed as a "farce" the parliamentary trial. The procedures immediately began to cast a vote on the draft resolution that requests that the president be exonerated of all responsibility in the so-called "narco-scandal."

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According to parliamentary sources, the absolving document is expected to be approved by a majority similar to the one which rejected the annulment motions.

Colombia: Chamber of Representatives Exonerates Samper

PA1306052096 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0501 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 12 Jun (EFE) — The Chamber of Representatives of Colombia today exonerated President Ernesto Samper of all penal and political responsibility regarding the charges that drug trafficking money was used in his election.

One hundred and eleven of the 165 representatives voted in favor of absolving Samper, and 43 voted against this.

As expected since the parliamentary trial began, the Chamber of Representatives ordered that charges against Samper, a 45-year-old Liberal lawyer, be "closed" (definitely ruled out and filed).

Colombian Prosecutor General Alfonso Valdivieso had filed charges against Samper for illegal enrichment, procedural fraud, false testimony, and collusion — all dealing with donations worth multimillions from the Cali Cartel for his electoral campaign in 1994.

The president's adversaries, who said the Chamber of Representatives trial was a "farce," wanted the chamber to accuse Samper of these crimes at the Senate, and also for the political charge of "undignified conduct," but this was also rejected.

Colombia: Samper Issues Communique on Chamber Vote

PA1306054796 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0528 GMT 13 Jun 96

[Report by Luis Fernando Maldonado at Narino Palace — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Samper Pizano has issued the following communique in connection with the Chamber of Representatives vote:

The president of the Republic acknowledges with pleasure the decision adopted this evening by the Chamber of Representatives' plenary session.

The president emphasizes the participation that the honorable representatives of all the parties and political movements had in the adoption of this decision.

This has been an example of the trustworthiness of Colombian institutions and the responsibility of the congressmen in offering to Colombia a solution to the crisis.

The president of the Republic will address the Colombian people tomorrow to announce the proposals he will submit to the nation to quickly overcome, with the participation of all sectors, these difficult moments that the Republic has experienced.

[Dated] Narino Palace, 12 June, 1996

Colombia: Chamber President on 'Honest Decision'

PA1306062196 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0534 GMT 13 Jun 96

[Interview with Chamber of Representatives President Rodrigo Rivera Salazar by journalist Javier Contreras at the Chamber of Representatives' Oval Room in Santa Fe de Bogota — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Contreras] Doctor Rodriguez Rivera, good morning. I say good morning because it is almost 0100.

[Rivera] Good morning.

[Contreras] Now that you are more calm, how do you analyze the process that has concluded, at least this intensive phase at the plenary, after two weeks of activities?

[Rivera] I am quite satisfied. The process involved a lot of risks — personal risks, legal risks, and the risk that the very temperament of the parliamentary members would not allow an orderly, broad-minded, tolerant debate. I believe that we have given the country and the world a lesson — that this is a civilized chamber, that this is a civilized country, that this is not a country of barbaric people, that this is a country capable of settling disputes, even this type of dispute, through institutional channels, and to settle those disputes based on respect for other people's ideas. People here may or may not agree with this decision, but no one can claim that this is not a legitimate decision, a clear and honest decision, and a decision that must be abided by. The decision has established President [Ernesto] Samper's innocence and, therefore, the case is closed.

[Contreras] Must the country accept the decision, just as it was adopted? That the president has been exonerated in this investigation and the issue will not be discussed, at least from the juridical viewpoint, in Congress?

[Rivera] There can be many truths, opinions, etc., but the institutional truth in Colombia, the only one that may be abided by, and that may demand abidance from the Colombian people, is the one that President Samper has been declared innocent in a decision that closes the case, that cannot be appealed, and that deserves the respect and abidance by all the Colombian people and other countries.

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[Contreras] Dr. Rivera, many were surprised by your vote.

[Rivera] I could not vote differently. I have cast a dissenting vote. You must know this. I strongly object to the way in which the investigation was conducted. [passage omitted] The Chamber of Representatives, however, has decided that President Ernesto Samper's innocence is fully proved and I am the first one to abide by that decision. [passage omitted]

Colombia: Samper To Address Nation on 13 Jun

PA1306062596 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0603 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Santa Fe de Bogota, 13 Jun (EFE) — Colombian President Ernesto Samper announced that on Thursday he will issue proposals to solve the crisis that prevails in the country. The announcement was made shortly after the Chamber of Representatives exonerated him of charges that drug trafficking money was used in his electoral campaign. [passage omitted]

An official source announced that the president will address the nation at 0800 local (1300 GMT). [passage omitted]

Colombia: OAS Secretary General's Brother Released

PA1206201896 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1948 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pereira, (Colombia), 12 Jun (EFE) — Colombian Architect Juan Carlos Gaviria, brother of Cesar Gaviria, secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS), was released today, safe and sound, after having been held captive for more than two months.

Gaviria was abducted this past 2 April, according to a police announcement.

Colombia: Gaviria Family Thanks Authorities, F. Castro

PA1206213496 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2044 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 12 Jun (EFE) — The relatives of architect Juan Carlos Gaviria, brother of the OAS Secretary General and former Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, have thanked the Colombian Government and Police, as well as Cuban President Fidel Castro, for their help. Gaviria was released today after 71 days in captivity.

In a communique issued shortly after it was learned that the architect had been released in a rural area on the Andean mountain range, located in the country's central-western region, the family stated "its gratitude to President Ernesto Samper, the National Government, the military authorities, and, particularly, the National Police."

The 38-year-old architect and constructor was kidnapped by the self-styled terrorist group "Dignity for Colombia" on 2 April while on his way to an appointment at a club that is located on the outskirts of Pereira.

In their message, the relatives also said "the Police managed to conduct the investigation that allowed for his release, thanks to its diligent intelligence work."

Likewise, they consider that the "good and timely mediation" of the Cuban Government "allowed for a solution to the problem."

Cuban President Fidel Castro had asked the movement "Dignity for Colombia" to respect the architect's life in a communique that was issued on Tuesday.

The recently liberated hostage's relatives also thanked "all the local and foreign people and organizations that stated their support and solidarity, in a humanitarian gesture that led to the creation of a favorable atmosphere for his liberation."

They also recognized the work carried out by the media, which "aptly handled the events with caution, without abandoning their informative work."

Colombian Government and media sources had known for days about a possible solution to the case, and they contributed to his liberation by not revealing the details of what they had learned.

Colombia: Kidnapping Said Used To Avoid Extradition

PA1206221996 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2120 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cali — Six people charged with being members of the so-called Dignity for Colombia movement's leadership were arrested last night by the UNASE [Antiextortion and Kidnapping Unit]. The prisoners have been identified as Freddy Llanos Moncayo, Maria Eugenia Velez Echeverery, Miriam Ospina Mejia, Monica Toro Ospina, Marleny Toro de Ramirez, and Fernando Soto Llanos. Hugo Antonio Toro Restrepo, also known as Bochica, was arrested a few days ago. He was the one who signed the communiques from the Dignity for Colombia movement. The Police have told RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional] that Toro Restrepo continued to lead the criminal band while in prison.

Architect Juan Carlos Gaviria Trujillo's kidnapping was carried out upon instructions from a group of drug

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traffickers in northern Valle del Cauca Department, in an effort to prevent any negotiations for extraditions to the United States. The authorities learned this after they managed to dismantle the Dignity for Colombia movement's armed branch, which claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of former President Cesar Gaviria's brother two months ago.

Engineer Juan Carlos Gaviria had no injuries at the time of his release but was tired and quite pale, due to the pressure under which we had been kept. The information was given to RCN by Colonel Alvaro Pantoja Ibanez, Police commander in Risaralda Department. He indicated that no shots were fired during the rescue operation between the UNASE, the National Police, and the kidnappers.

Meanwhile, in Santa Fe de Bogota, President Ernesto Samper Pizano praised the role played by the DAS [Administrative Department of Security], the National Police, and Anti-Kidnapping Czar Alberto Villamizar in the operation that led to architect Juan Carlos Gaviria's liberation. In a communique to the public, the president also issued an appeal to criminals who still hold Colombian citizens hostage in various regions of the country, urging them to release their hostages.

Colombia: News Conference Held on Gaviria's Release

PA1306035796 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2225 GMT 12 Jun 96

[Live relay of news conference by Defense Minister Juan Carlos Esguerra, National Police Director General Rosso Jose Serrano, and Anti-Kidnapping Czar Alberto Villamizar at the National Police Directorate in Santa Fe de Bogota]

[FBIS Summary] Defense Minister Esguerra begins by saying that with hard work and the cooperation of many organizations, they are pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Gaviria has been released. He says:

"Many people participated in this effort. Many people worked for a very long time: the Public Force, DAS (Administrative Department of Security), the office of the anti-kidnapping czar, the Defense Ministry, and, fundamentally, the National Police. Once again led by General Rosso Jose Serrano and based on a work, (pauses) based on a silent and devoted intelligence work, the National Police succeeded in exposing and dismantling the terrorist organization of fanatics, the self-styled Jega, an acronym it adopted — how sad — after the name of one of Colombia's great men, Jorge Eliecer Gaitan. The group had kidnapped Dr. Juan Carlos Gaviria for not very clear political purposes. This terrorist group stemmed from a ELN (Army of National Liberation) cell, and no doubt has tentacles and ties that bind it to some drug trafficking organizations."

General Serrano then says that he is quite pleased with the accomplishment and acknowledges that they have received much support from the government. He says that this accomplishment reaffirms their commitment to the country. He describes the actions by the kidnappers as beast-like. He says:

"Throughout these long two months, we were able to establish that Jega is an anarchic movement, lacking direction. Based on purported revolutionary principles, it wanted to perpetrate this crime (kill hostage Juan Carlos Gaviria) possibly today or tomorrow."

Serrano continues by urging Colombians to believe in their effectiveness in fighting crimes such as these, especially considering the support they receive from the government.

Serrano says that the organization that kidnapped Gaviria was very sophisticated and had a lot of money, wondering how they finance their actions.

Anti-Kidnapping Czar Alberto Villamizar then begins to speak and says, he too, is pleased with the release. He says:

"I want to reiterate and stress the splendid investigative and intelligence work done by the National Police. I also want to thank the solidarity of so many Colombians, from our Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez to the most humble resident of Pereira, also including reporters and, in fact, the assistance that Cuban President Fidel Castro provided through a message. They built a network of solidarity that, together with the splendid work by the National Police, ultimately brought about this result that all of Colombia is celebrating today."

He closes by saying that Colombians can rest assured that they will continue in their efforts to fight against this crime. The news conference ends without the appearance of the Gaviria brothers.

After the news conference, Colonel Lois Alberto Rodriguez, head of the Antiextortion and Kidnapping Unit, UNASE, comments and answers questions.

When asked if the Dignity of Colombia group is the same as the Jega group, he answered:

"Yes, it must be. It operated in a clandestine manner under the name Dignity of Colombia. We are now preparing a study to submit to the public that reveals that this is really the Jega group, which has a background of kidnappings, such as the kidnapping of the brother of (former President) Belisario Betancur, the Tolima governor, and other persons and industrialists who were

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kidnapped for extortion money. The group also tried to kidnap President Samper's brother in Madrid, and even (Vice President Humberto) de la Calle. It is the same group that tried to kidnap (Samper's lawyer) Antonio Jose Cancino to bring him to a political trial."

When asked if the group is the same group that killed the DAS agents, he responds: "No doubt. It is the same one."

When asked about how the group's leader, Bochica (Hugo Antonio Toro), was arrested, he replies:

"We do not have... Bochica is still in hiding. We made a temporary arrest of second, third, fifth level members, and who knows how many more. This is a process we are working on without any special (word indistinct)."

When asked if this is the same group that killed Conservative leader Alvaro Gomez, he says that this group has nothing to do with that crime.

When asked if he can provide names of those arrested, he says:

"No. We have made several temporary arrests but had to make a special (?concession), because the handling of this kidnapping is an extremely delicate matter. The only way was through exerting pressure as the National Police director and Villamizar have stated."

He says that Gaviria was very pale but cannot disclose much information on the case itself. One reporter asks him what he meant earlier by saying concessions and he says that this will all be disclosed later on.

He stresses the need for the public to trust in the security organizations and reiterates that a more thorough report will be issued later.

Colombia: Samper Remarks on Release of Gaviria's Brother

PA1306014596 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0051 GMT 13 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We will confirm the names of the individuals who supposedly have left the country in exchange for the release of Juan Carlos Gaviria. The names are: Freddy Llanos Moncayo, Maria Eugenia Velez Echeverry, (Gloria Ospino Mejia), (Monica Toro Spia), (Marlene Toro Miranda), Fernando Soto Llanos, and Hugo Antonio Toro Restrepo, Commander Aguachica.

The word exchange is gaining strength. Carlos Lemos has more information. He will give us details as to whether this is true.

[Lemos] The president of the Republic, Ernesto Samper Pizano, has just left the National Police Directorate. He made important statements. He held a brief meeting with former President Cesar Gaviria and his brother, Juan Carlos who was released this afternoon. President Ernesto Samper Pizano has hinted that there was a negotiation for the release of Juan Carlos Gaviria. Let us listen to President Samper:

[Begin recording] [Samper] General Rosso Jose Serrano tomorrow will disclose the details and the official version of the actions that were taken. What I can tell you for the time being is that we are all very pleased with what has happened.

[Unidentified reporter] Was there a negotiation?

[Samper] There always have to be negotiations in all complicated operations.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Samper] Serrano will give the details tomorrow.

[Reporter] We have learned that certain members of the Dignity for Colombia have left for Havana in a [words indistinct].

[Samper] Tomorrow we will give you an official report on everything that has happened.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Samper] He looked emaciated. [end recording]

Rosso Jose Serrano will hold a second news conference tomorrow. The first one was held today with Defense Minister Juan Carlos Esguerra. They are going to give the details tomorrow, but it is a fact that there was an exchange, a negotiation for the release of Juan Carlos Gaviria.

Fidel Castro's letter is starting to make news.

Colombia: Gaviria's Release Said To Result From Talks

PA1306030096 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0108 GMT 13 Jun 96

["Special last minute report" by Dario Arizmendi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Caracol has just confirmed with sources from the National Police and Narino Palace that the release of architect Juan Carlos Gaviria Trujillo took place as a result of direct negotiations with members of the Movement for the Dignity of Colombia.

Caracol has just confirmed that eight members of a faction of the Army of National Liberation belonging to that movement that had kidnapped Juan Carlos Gaviria Trujillo 71 days ago left in an Avianca commercial plane from Santa Fe de Bogota directly to Havana at

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approximately 1300. The guerrillas, members of the Movement for the Dignity of Colombia, were reportedly transferred to Santa Fe de Bogota in a helicopter chartered specifically by the National Police. The negotiation took place after the police in a blow yesterday arrested members of this movement, apparently including Commander Bochica, who has signed the communiques with the demands to the government and former President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo establishing conditions to release the architect.

During negotiations, the eight members promised the police they would disclose the exact location where Juan Carlos Gaviria Trujillo could be found. The national government, after extensive consultations at the highest levels, held talks with former President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, who is in Santa Fe de Bogota and who personally has coordinated all the operations to release his brother. The talks also included Nobel Peace laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez. There also were contacts with the government of Fidel Castro. This explains his letter, which apparently was a signal that permitted the release of Juan Carlos Gaviria Trujillo at approximately 1300 today.

Caracol has confirmed all these details from official sources. It was not a release as a result of pressures; it was the result of negotiations between the government of Ernesto Samper Pizano with the participation of the OAS secretary general and members of the Movement for the Dignity of Colombia. The members of that movement are already in Cuba; this information has been fully confirmed.

Meanwhile, Juan Carlos Gaviria Trujillo, who underwent a medical checkup this afternoon, is resting quietly now after living under inhumane conditions in the place where he was held captive at the border between the departments of Risaralda and northern Valle del Cauca.

Colombia: Police Director Describes Gaviria's Release

PA1306055196 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0111 GMT 13 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with General Rosso Jose Serrano, director of National Police, place not given, by Dario Arizmendi in the network's studios in Santa Fe de Bogota — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Arizmendi] What can you tell us about the circumstances surrounding the transfer to Santa Fe de Bogota of the members of the Movement for the Dignity of Colombia and their subsequent departure from Santa Fe de Bogota to Havana?

[Serrano] We have been conducting an intelligence operation for quite some time. Fortunately for us, last night we arrested.... [pauses] detected a meeting of the group that was practically going to execute Juan Carlos. We brought them to Santa Fe de Bogota. Because they were caught by surprise, they told us they would take us to the site where Juan Carlos was being held captive. They said this would be after receiving Castro's communique, because they are pro-Castro people. They are people who know much and have been doing h[illegible] to the country for 20 years.

We agreed they would take us to the place where Juan Carlos was being held. We had already gathered evidence—videotapes, letters, and practically a blueprint of all their movements from Santa Fe de Bogota—against them, because they moved to Cali. After leaving them at the Police Air Service, two of them accompanied us and today, after six hours [words indistinct] released him. They came back with us and departed to Cuba along with the others that had stayed here; this was coordinated with the Cuban ambassador, two emissaries that delivered the document [words indistinct] we immediately took him to the hospital, because Juan Carlos was very ill; he practically could not stand up. He told me he did not see daylight during his entire captivity. He looked very emaciated. I was concerned during the flight, because I thought I might have to give him oxygen. He did not know whether his release was true. He told me he thought he was going to be killed when they put him on the plane. He had not realized he was with us. That is the truth of what happened today. These important events happened very quickly.

[Arizmendi] Exactly how many people did you arrest yesterday and where?

[Serrano] We arrested eight in Cali in a meeting we had been following. It was virtually the final meeting before Juan Carlos was to be executed. I can give you additional information. We asked former President Cesar Gaviria to talk to President Ernesto Samper and to ask him not to hold the vote yesterday; otherwise, Juan Carlos would have been killed. I think it is a gesture we have to recognize. We were very well informed, because we have been following this movement for more than two months. At 0400 this morning, we raided a house located on 69th and 15th Streets, where we found two (?rooms) in inhumane conditions in which the people could not even sit down. We found large amounts of documents, weapons, grenades, and ammunition. We already had control of these people as far as intelligence information is concerned.

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[Arizmendi] Was Juan Carlos Gaviria Trujillo being kept within metropolitan Cali or was he kept in the mountains between Valle del Cauca and Risaralda Departments?

[Serrano] He was in Risaralda Department. They made us lose track of him, because they made us move between Cali.... [pauses] We were absolutely certain he was in Cali, but it turns out these people were so smart that they were able to sneak away from Santa Fe de Bogota to Cali. We never thought he could be in Pereira. When we were on board the plane, they told us we were headed for Pereira. I thought they wanted us to lose track of them, but after we arrived at the airport, an officer of mine left with about 12 individuals and an official who had come from Cuba; that is how they turned Juan Carlos over to us.

Juan Carlos was turned over to us in terrible shape, a condition that was quite inhumane. He was practically dazed, because he had not seen daylight for a long time. He was in terrible shape. The medical report was already drafted. We are concerned because of the traumas caused by these confinements. If he was kidnapped, they should have at least allowed him to walk around.

[Arizmendi] You mentioned an officer who had come from Cuba. When did he come here and why?

[Serrano] They said they would postpone his execution by 10 or 15 days if Castro sent a communique, the one that was published in the media. They brought the communique.

[Arizmendi] The communique was brought here directly by an emissary from Cuba?

[Serrano] Exactly.

[Arizmendi] You told us that Juan Carlos was turned over to you, that he was dazed, and that he thought he would be killed. Does this mean the police did not receive him at the house or at the hiding place where he was being kept?

[Serrano] We were given three sites, right? They made us wait from 0800 to about 1220. We had the prisoners here in Santa Fe de Bogota. That was the agreement, right?

[Arizmendi] So you went with the two emissaries....

[Serrano interrupting] Correct, a man and a woman. They were very tough and, I believe, very resentful; this worried me, because they showed a great deal of resentment although they were not young. Thank God, however, everything was complied with. He is undergoing medical tests at the police clinic right now. He is very happy. His mother as well as his wife and children have already visited him. I would say he has basically recovered already.

[Arizmendi] How many of Fidel Castro's officials or emissaries participated in the operation to rescue Juan Carlos?

[Serrano] Two emissaries. I was also with the ambassador [not further identified] at the Police Air Service terminal this morning but left at 0600, and only the two emissaries were there.

[Arizmendi] You mentioned a hiding place located between 69th and 15th streets. Was this here in Santa Fe de Bogota or in Cali?

[Serrano] Here in Santa Fe de Bogota. We found 15 pistols, grenades, and a great amount of documents in this hiding place. It was a very impressive place. I have been in the police a long time but had never seen a place where a person cannot even sit down and only has a newspaper page to warm himself.

[Arizmendi] Was Juan Carlos ever in the hiding place located between 69th and 15th street?

[Serrano] I do not believe so. We have to investigate to determine the individuals who have been kidnapped and kept in this place. Perhaps people who are listening to us now can help. If someone was held [words indistinct] because the house is well located. The kidnappers could escape if the police arrived, because the house has stairs going to [words indistinct], and it also has an exit leading to the street hidden by a stove. Viewing the place, you detect that those people have done much harm and have kidnapped many people in this country.

[Arizmendi] So the hiding places evidently belonged to the same [words indistinct] group?

[Serrano] Yes; this is what we have determined with our intelligence work. I believe this intelligence operation is our best one, because we broke into almost all their points.

[Arizmendi] Does Juan Carlos Gaviria say he was held in only one place, or does he think he was moved around?

[Serrano] He believes he was moved, but I do not believe one can notice anything when you are in such a position. The truth is that the conditions were really appalling.

[Arizmendi] He was locked up practically all the time?

[Serrano] Locked up and tied down.

[Arizmendi] This explains why he could not walk when you took him to the helicopter at the National Police helicopter landing pad.

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[Serrano] Exactly. The same thing happened when we were getting on the plane at Pereira. I gave him my hand to help him up, but he collapsed. He was totally numb and could not move.

[Arizmendi] Going over the events again, was Juan Carlos in the metropolitan or rural area of Pereira?

[Serrano] Apparently in the rural area.

[Arizmendi] You said the two emissaries had gone to [words indistinct] the place where Juan Carlos was located. Did they do this without the presence of the police?

[Serrano] No, we were there.

[Arizmendi] How [word indistinct] the house in which he was kept?

[Serrano] [Words indistinct] did not go to the house. We stayed at a distance, because they did not want to make any mistakes. We followed them; we have experience in doing so, and this is when we saw how they held him. They were not going to.... [pauses] Perhaps they thought more people were guarding him there. I have the impression that they were surprised because the operation had been so quick. It happened basically during the night, and perhaps they did not have time to tell everyone.

[Arizmendi] President Samper, for humanitarian reasons, directly authorized this negotiation to get them to release Juan Carlos and in exchange send them to Cuba?

[Serrano] Former President Gaviria spoke to him, and they even talked about the sessions. He cooperated in all possible ways, because the [words indistinct].

We were completely convinced they would have eliminated Juan Carlos had the voting taken place yesterday; we had no doubt about that. Those people are very, very tough. I assure you I was quite impressed by their behavior.

[Arizmendi] Regarding this pro-Castro political group, is it a bloc of the Army of National Liberation with drug traffickers, as was reported?

[Serrano] Until I have.... [pauses] We have analyzed certain lists and notebooks and are evaluating them. I dare not talk about any ties at this time. I believe we can talk about this matter later.

[Arizmendi] The [words indistinct] participation in the attack on Antonio Jose Cancino, the president's first lawyer, and the assassination of Alvaro Gomez Hurtado?

[Serrano] Somehow they.... [pauses] It is not that I [words indistinct], but I think it is better to wait for the investigation, so we do not have to speculate.

[Arizmendi] Doesn't the law forbid any type of negotiation with kidnappers?

[Serrano] I do not know. I.... [pauses] We should be happy now because the doctor is well and was not eliminated. I believe that is the important point. We policemen strive to protect other people's lives. That is what has compelled us, rather than ill will or the wish to harm anyone. No one was killed on either side; no shots were fired. I think that is what should be done, because it is better not to rescue the people if we are going to become involved in speculation.

[Arizmendi] Of course. Was any ransom paid, or were there any other economic demands from them in addition to air transportation to Cuba?

[Serrano] No, no, not as far as I know. That is the strange thing, no? They made no economic demands.

[Arizmendi] At what time did they leave on board an Avianca airplane?

[Serrano] We arrived at 1600, and I believe they left at approximately 1610 or 1615.

[Arizmendi] Yes.

[Serrano] I was unaware of the time, because we had been on this case for 48 straight hours; this was a matter of minutes, of doing or not doing, of entering or not entering, of accepting or not accepting. This is the type of case that demands decisions and frankness. I believe we must confront matters, and I confront them.

[Arizmendi] How many people traveled to Cuba, aside from these eight people comprising....

[Serrano, interrupting] I think it was approximately 10 people. I believe they later requested the inclusion of two boys or two girls. I did not have the opportunity to find out, because as soon as I left....

[Arizmendi, interrupting] The Twin Otter.

[Serrano] The Twin Otter, I had to go get them, and we immediately brought them by helicopter.

[Arizmendi] The two emissaries sent by Fidel Castro traveled to Cuba too?

[Serrano] Of course.

[Arizmendi] In other words, approximately 12 people left the country.

[Serrano] I imagine it was 13, 12, or 11 people.

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[Arizmendi] What role did former President Cesar Gaviria play in this release?

[Serrano] I think he was always there. He accepted our suggestions. He was impressed with the manner in which we gave him the information. We saw videos, letters, and all the follow-up procedures we carried out. He said he had never seen such dynamic developments or actions carried out by the government.

[Arizmendi] Why did they not kill him before the voting took place?

[Serrano] That was their request. They wanted this as an excuse, but we surprised them. While they talked, they said no one had infiltrated the movement in 30 years as we had done on this occasion.

[Arizmendi] Was Juan Carlos Gaviria being watched by other people within the Movement for the Dignity of Colombia when he was picked up?

[Serrano] I do not know. When we arrived with our people, we saw that he was unable to run, even if they had left him alone.

[Arizmendi] Of course.

[Serrano] He was quite traumatized. His condition was quite deplorable.

[Arizmendi] How can you explain the fact that all the leaders of this movement, the ones who were responsible for his kidnapping and what would happen later, were together? One cannot understand, for logistic reasons, why they made such a mistake.

[Serrano] Because they did not believe we had been able to follow their steps so closely. There were people in Santa Fe de Bogota and Cali. This mistake was their's, and it was our lucky break. I believe we scored one in this case.

[Arizmendi] Is so-called Commander Bochica, who has signed the communiques stipulating the demands made in the past two months, among those arrested?

[Serrano] We have been trying to determine some of the aliases, but I will not say he is among them until I am certain of it.

[Arizmendi] Why was this group in Cali and Gaviria in Pereira or in this city's neighborhood [words indistinct]?

[Serrano] These people are quite good at sneaking away [words indistinct] most likely they sensed we were on their trail and began moving toward the most inaccessible place they could find, but we still found them.

[Arizmendi] Based on speculations and remarks by sources linked to the official media, it has been said this group was allegedly made up of approximately 60 people. Are all these people at large and somewhat waiting for the authorities to determine their whereabouts?

[Serrano] We are moving at a satisfactory pace in this regard. From what we learned about this movement over the past two months, we believe we are prepared to control it. For instance, there was no one at the house we reached at 0400. They realized we were closing in on them.

[Arizmendi] What do you mean there was no one there? Wasn't there anyone guarding the house?

[Serrano] No. We followed the directions and reached the house by surprise. Perhaps [words indistinct] were able to flee, because we found a ladder that led to the roof; we found the ammunition and weapons there. I believe they [words indistinct], because they are experts. I believe they had truly kidnapped many people throughout the country.

[Arizmendi] In other words, the police arrested only eight of all the people who were presumably in that house in Cali at the time while the remaining individuals were presumably able to escape?

[Serrano] I believe no one fled the house there. We discovered here in the hole in Santa Fe de Bogota....

[Arizmendi, interrupting] You did not find anyone there.

[Serrano] Absolutely no one. I believe they did not have the time to.... [pauses] I do not know whether they were going to celebrate or whether they had already made a decision to kill Juan Carlos. We will have to look into this matter more calmly later on.

[Arizmendi] How can you justify that they did not have any security operation, at least a minimum of surveillance considering that you were able reach that house in Cali so easily and calmly?

[Serrano] We were able to find this house calmly and efficiently. Bear in mind that we are experienced in this type of exercise, and not only the bad ones are [word indistinct]. I believe this is our profession, the reason why we put so much heart into it. I also believe we scored one this time just as they sometimes win battles.

[Arizmendi] Were you certain Gaviria's abductors were in that house in Cali in the early hours of the morning?

[Serrano] This happened in a matter of minutes. I received a telephone call from Colonel Rodriguez who asked: General, should I go in? I told him to go ahead, and they were there.

[Arizmendi] After your men went in, did anyone fire at them?

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[Serrano] No one fired at anyone. There were no deaths, casualties, or any fighting. I believe this operation was a clean one, and these are the expected results when we have a swift operation such as this one.

[Arizmendi] At what time was the operation carried out in Cali?

[Serrano] The operation was carried out at approximately 2100.

[Arizmendi] You arrived at 0400 [words indistinct].

[Serrano] They arrived at 0600, and I left for Pereira that same time. First, they had told me I was supposed to go to Cali, but when we were already heading there on the plane, they told us to go to Pereira.

[Arizmendi] They are hard to deal with. All of this was decided along with them.

[Serrano] Exactly, they are tough ones.

[Arizmendi] Why hasn't it been possible to identify Bochica, the toughest one of all?

[Arizmendi] Were there plans among the documents confiscated to kidnap, execute, or assassinate certain, prominent individuals of the country?

[Serrano] We found an anti-terrorist [as heard] plan for Santa Fe de Bogota. We found 50 diskettes, more or less. We have about 20 boxes of documents. As far I could see very quickly, there were many newspaper clippings and the pictures of people appearing on the social events page. There are many things we could examine. Later we could make an analysis of what they were planning to do.

[Arizmendi] Whom did you call first, former President Cesar Gaviria or President Ernesto Samper Pizano to give him the good news?

[Serrano] I called President Samper and the minister. We had quick communication with the president, but I could not get through because.... [pauses] it all happened so fast. When I saw him, we climbed quickly into the plane and [words indistinct] I think I was able to say a few words to you, but the communication could not get through when the plane gained altitude. We spoke to the president, the minister, former President Gaviria, and the prosecutor general. I told them we were on our way with Juan Carlos.

[Arizmendi] Will he remain in Santa Fe de Bogota during the next few days, or will he be sent abroad for a more careful medical examination?

[Serrano] He will be taken to our hospital; he will be examined there. His family will determine what to do with him depending on the results of the examination. His mother and family arrived late at night; they were very happy. The other topics are, logically, important, but I am happy he was not killed and would like to see him recover.

[Arizmendi] Whose initiative was it to release Juan Carlos Gaviria Trujillo with the condition that a plane be given to them so they could fly to Cuba? Was it the government's initiative or their's?

[Serrano] What happens is that when the leaders are arrested, we do whatever emerges. We start talking, talking, and talking, and things start coming out. We start recognizing the things that can be done, and it was done.

[Arizmendi] Were there exchanges of letters between President Ernesto Samper and Cuban President Fidel Castro?

[Serrano] I have no knowledge of that. I spoke to the president a short time ago but did not talk about that with him.

Colombia: Police Arrest Alleged Leader of Coast Cartel

PA1306020096 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jun 96

[From the "National Newscast"; monitored from retransmission by Lima Sistema Unido de Retransmision Television at 0000 GMT on 13 June]

[FBIS Translated Text] Luis Enrique Ramirez, alias Mickey, who is considered the leader of the Coast cartel, is being interrogated at this hour. The arrest of the alleged capo occurred following one month of intelligence work, and it is the first big blow dealt to that drug trafficking organization. Everything seems to indicate the National Police intends to dismantle the drug trafficking network of the Coast cartel.

This is Luis Enrique Ramirez Murillo, alias Mickey, one of the highest-ranking leaders of the Coast cartel. [video shows police dossier and head shot of Ramirez Murillo] The Prosecutor General's Office issued an arrest warrant against him on 20 March for drug trafficking charges. He had two residences well equipped to evade the authorities with bullet-proof windows, closed circuit surveillance systems, and a complete arsenal.

According to the National Police, Mickey Ramirez began his drug trafficking activities in 1985. He began handling drug distribution routes in Amazonas, Putumayo, and Caqueta, his place of origin. Later on, he entered Pablo Escobar's organization when he placed his airplane fleet at the service of the Medellin cartel to ship cocaine abroad.

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Mickey began working with the Cali cartel when Escobar was sent to La Catedral Prison and began ordering the executions of his former collaborators, including the Moncada and Galeano brothers. Following the collapse of the Cali cartel, Ramirez assumed control of the drug trafficking operations and distribution along the Atlantic Coast.

Although Luis Enrique Ramirez, alias Mickey, is now considered one of the highest-ranking leaders of the Coast cartel, he received benefits from the Prosecutor General's Office three years ago. In fact, he and other Medellin cartel members were granted immunity late in 1993, following their cooperation against Pablo Escobar, meaning that Mickey was free of any investigation or charges for incidents that occurred prior to his cooperation with judicial authorities. The judicial process has been implemented only on that occasion.

Ecuador

Ecuador: UN Official on Unauthorized Comments on Conflict

PA1206201396 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jun 96

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Julio Prado Vallejo, member of the UN Human Rights Commission, pointed out that President Sixto Duran-Ballen must urgently impose restrictions on all pronouncements on the territorial problem with Peru to prevent misleading perceptions that could undermine the peace process.

Prado Vallejos, former Ecuadoran foreign minister and currently member of the UN Human Rights Commission, stressed that he is prepared to raise a serious and direct recommendation before the president of the republic so that he can relay instructions restricting all pronouncements except those originating from duly authorized Foreign Relations Ministry officials.

The UN official questioned recent statements made by Armed Forces representatives in which they indicated that Ecuador would adopt its own military measures in light of the alleged increase of Peruvian troops along the common border.

In an attempt to placate the situation in light of statements by the Armed Forces, the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry [word indistinct] that the peace process should be fully honored and ruled out the likelihood of any further armed clashes between Ecuador and Peru, both of which are engaged in a dispute over a territory without borders.

Insisting on the need for a more active participation of the military observers mission to Ecuador and Peru as part of the peace process, Julio Prado Vallejo stressed that discrepancies in statements by the Foreign Ministry and the Armed Forces do nothing to help Ecuador's image before the international community.

With respect to President Duran-Ballen's interest in the country's national soccer team matches, Prado Vallejo pointed out that in lately, the president of the republic has been somewhat dissociated from the international problem and thinking more about soccer than about making any high-level overtures with other heads of state of the guarantor nations Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States.

Duran Ballen has even offered to accompany the national soccer team to Santiago de Chile, where they will be facing the Chilean soccer team on 7 July, the same date when the second round of elections will be taking place in Ecuador to elect the president's successor for the next four years.

Paraguay

Paraguay: Wasmosy Justifies Replacing Oviedo

PA1206233696 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1835 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Asuncion, 12 Jun (EFE) — Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy said today that General Lino Cesar Oviedo's recent statement contains "many deceptions, lies, and false alibis," in order to avoid responsibility for the 22 April coup attempt.

In an address to the nation, Wasmosy said that since the 1989 coup d'etat against General Alfredo Stroessner, "Oviedo, blinded by both the successful coup and messianic obsessions, began a frenzied race toward achieving strictly personal goals."

The polemical military leader, now a retired officer, last week denied before Congress that he resisted being replaced as army commander and accused Wasmosy of proposing a "self-inflicted coup" or the creation of a military junta to govern the country.

In his speech, Wasmosy categorically denied the charges and said that he decided to replace Oviedo because he was a "permanent obstacle" in the process of institutionalizing the Armed Forces, due to his "increasing attempts to escalate positions and make or propose decisions that were not within his scope of authority."

Wasmosy stressed that Oviedo's retirement became more necessary as his presence in the Armed Forces Command "distorted the Armed Forces' institutional role, which became increasingly obvious."

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He also mentioned Oviedo's "undue" participation in politics, his "blatant" intervention in the process prior to the internal elections in the Colorado Party, and his "attempt to influence through pressure" the creation of a new administration of justice.

He justified the delay in carrying out that decision by saying that after consulting several military chiefs he concluded that he had to proceed with caution, as "rebellious and violent actions were surely expected" from the polemical general.

He recalled that Oviedo participated in two other military crises in December 1994 and August 1995. According to Wasmosy, those actions increasingly portrayed the general as "an ambitious military officer, greedy for power, and an active politician under his military uniform."

Peru

Peru: Salvadoran President Arrives for Official Visit

PA1306053296 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0350 GMT 12 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 12 Jun (EFE) — Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol arrived in Lima today for a three-day visit. During his stay, he will meet with his Peruvian colleague, Alberto Fujimori, and sign several bilateral agreements.

The Salvadoran president arrived at the Jorge Chavez International Airport on an American Airlines flight at 0245 GMT. He was received by Peruvian Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela.

The Salvadoran delegation includes Foreign Minister Ramon Gonzalez Giner, Presidential State Modernization Commissioner Alfredo Mena Lagos, and Foreign Policy Director Rene Dominguez.

Calderon Sol will meet with Fujimori at the Government Palace in Lima, and, later, both leaders will exchange decorations in a special ceremony.

The Salvadoran president will also meet with Congress President Martha Chavez, and Lima Mayor Alberto Andrade will declare him the "Illustrious Guest of the City."

Caldera will be present at the ceremony where agreements to strengthen bilateral relations in the spheres of investments, customs and judicial assistance, scientific and technical cooperation, and involving visas, will be signed.

The agreements will be signed by the Salvadoran and Peruvian foreign ministers at the Torre Tagle Palace, seat of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry, on Thursday.

That same day, the Salvadoran president will close the international seminar entitled: "The Peace Agreements in El Salvador and the Peace Culture as a Universal Concept: President Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero." The seminar will be held in the main room of the Peruvian Diplomatic Academy.

Calderon Sol will meet with Peruvian government officials at a work breakfast on Saturday. Afterwards, he will go to Cajamarca, approximately 800 km to the north of Lima, where he will inaugurate social works with Fujimori.

The Central American and Peruvian presidents are scheduled to sign a joint communique on Saturday. After this has been done, Calderon Sol will end his visit to the Andean country.

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